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Recently graduated DIT student Carl O'Brien has won his second successive ESB Young Journalist of the Year award.

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Union split on abortion referendum

By Aisling Casey

PLANS to hold an internal abortion referendum have been rejected by DITSU

Council to the dissatisfaction of some of its members. After a constitutional review of the abortion referendum, it was proposed at council last month that DITSU be legally obliged to give information on abortion.

The proposal stated that the Union will have a neutral position and neutral policy provision for providing information on abortion.

DITSU Overall President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick informed Council that "With this neutral position, although not everyone would be totally happy it ensures that far more members will be less dissatisfied with the Union's abortion policy."

After the motion was put to a vote, it was carried by a majority ruling, with the decision not to hold an internal referendum within DIT. Speaking at the meeting, DITSU Cllr Hugh O'Reilly

said, "A Union is not a political party. This is like SIPTU mandating the government. In my view if we have a referendum and it is carried, I do not believe that my view is being represented by the Union."

He added, "If DITSU want to find out what the feeling is on the ground among their students, why not throw in a question in one of their surveys the Union conducts each year which would deal with the abortion issue."

The internal referendum

was to be held in an effort to establish a political consensus among DIT students. The call for a referendum on abortion was agreed to by DITSU Council at the end of the previous academic year. The decision was taken after the abortion issue was raised by delegates at USI National Congress last year, when DIT could not comment on its abortion policies without the consensus of its students.

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Protocol for dealing with suspect packages posted on DIT website

By Aoife Stokes

IN THE wake of worldwide fears of bio-terrorist attacks, DIT has posted guidelines for dealing with suspect packages on the colleges website at www.dit.ie/news/pr2001/security

The protocol includes a number of characteristics that could identify a suspicious package.

These are features of packages or letters such as excessive postage, handwritten or poorly typed addresses, protruding wires or aluminium foil and oily stains or discolouration amongst others

in the list of suspect characteristics.

Excessive security material such as masking tape, string, etc, visual distractions, a ticking sound, a parcel or envelope marked with restrictive endorsements, such as "Personal" or "Confidential" or that shows a city or state in the postmark that does not match the return address.

If such a package or letter is discovered by staff or students, the college recommends that the package is not opened and the Gardai are immediately called on 999 or 112.

A full text of the protocol is available at the website of the Department of Health and Children at www.hlgov.ie.

In terms of a possible evacuation in the case of any attacks biological or otherwise, the college has individual safety statements drawn up by the Senior Management in each faculty.

Also as a government funded body, DIT would follow any recommended procedures outlined by the government in relation to issues of national safety and protection.

Editorial comment: This is your paper!

It has been suggested that the *DIT Independent* should be renamed the 'Aungier Street Independent' in the light of our first issue and hearing said around the sites has become tiresome.

Several phone calls have been made to DITSU's main office by several of site sabbaticals in relation to this and the whole of improving communications is set to be discussed by DITSU Council.

I for one am happy to learn of such a development. As this paper is based in Aungier Street, it is inevitable that there is going to be more coverage of that site above the other DIT's.

It is the nature of any newspaper that it features several stories relating to the area in which it operates.

Secondly, despite going around to all the sites with posters outlining contact details and the like, little or

anything was received in the way of feedback thereafter.

Thirdly, if those officers who are so concerned by the situation want to air their grievances, then any letters to the editor will be published forthwith. All contributions to the *DIT Independent* are welcome.

This paper is for all the students of DIT and it is our collective responsibility to make this publication as representative and informed as possible.



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The Overall View

Hello and welcome to another addition of the DIT Independent. By now you're probably all well settled in to the college year and have the assignments piled high on front of you, best of luck! We're here to take your mind off of all that for a while and let you know about all the wonderful extra circular activities that have been going on since our last edition.

Firstly I would like to thank and congratulate all our students and staff who participated in the 10k Freshers Walk. The walk was a huge success and a great occasion by all accounts with excellent participation from the DIT; lets keep that sponsorship money rolling in! A special mention must go to the two 'Joy Joe's' from DIT; Joe McGrath, a lecturer in Mountjoy Square and Joe Walsh the Mountjoy Square Students Union President, who both put a tremendous amount of time and effort into making the day the success that it was. Thank you gentlemen, you did us proud!

Another excellent event that was held recently and cannot go unmentioned is the DIT Clubs and Societies Training held in Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth. All had a wonderful and worthwhile 2 days and we hope that those of you who attended will put what you learned into practise. Great craic was had by all and more importantly a lot was learned over the 2 days of training with relevant modules presented by experienced professionals. As always a special word of thanks has to go to the person who made it all happen Anita Conway the DIT Societies Organiser who made the Students Unions job a lot easier due to her invaluable guidance and organisation.

As ever the various training events are ongoing at this time of year, and our Class Rep training is coming up over the next week or so. This year the Students Union is holding the training on a site by site basis so watch out for further info in your local DIT site. This years new, fun and innovative approach is aimed at building up a strong core group of class reps on each site and encouraging reps to get more involved with their local union and indeed with the other reps in their particular college. We would strongly encourage all DIT Class Reps to attend the training provided, as the position of Class Rep is key to both students and the Students Union alike; and besides that, we think you'll enjoy it!

That's all from me for the moment. Remember if you have any news or articles of interest please send them into this newspaper through your Students Union; it's your paper afterall!

Until next month, keep up the hard work, Mise le meas, Marguerite

DIT report vital to Government child policies

MINISTER for Children, Mary Hanafin, T.D. recently launched the National Report of the IEA Preprimary Project, entitled Seven Years Old: School Experience in Ireland, in DIT Rathmines.

It is part of an international longitudinal study, which DIT, through the Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER) has been part of since 1995.

The Minister commented on how vital this report would be in assisting in the development of child-related policies and programmes.

The project has received considerable interest based on a number of important findings.

For example, the study found average family income was significantly lower in families of children attending designated disadvantaged schools (£12,000), than those attending non-designated disadvantaged schools (£21,500).



MINISTER for Children, Mary Hanafin, T.D. recently launched the National Report of the IEA Preprimary Project, entitled Seven Years Old: School Experience in Ireland, in DIT Rathmines.

The percentage increase in income of families of children attending disadvantaged schools, between Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project was 9 per cent,

whereas for families of children attending non-designated disadvantaged schools, it was 32 per cent.

The study's findings directly support those

recently reported by the ESRI, in terms of the widening relative income gaps.

The project carried out by Noirín Hayes and Margaret Kernan of the CSER also found that boys in designated disadvantaged schools scored lowest on cognitive, language, and academic development.

However, they did score slightly higher on social and emotional development.

The project was designed to assess the need for, and the utilisation of, early childhood care and education, along with the quality of childhood experiences in these settings.

The project focuses on the development status and the school experiences of a nationwide-wide sample of children, who have been tracked by the research team since they were 4 years old.

DIT maps the changing face of Dublin

THE Department of Geomatics in Dublin Institute of Technology and Skerries Community College has commenced a joint venture aimed at bringing an existing amenity map of Skerries in North County Dublin up to date.

By using DIT equipment and facilities, and working closely with staff of the Department of Geomatics, transition year students from Skerries will develop and use the basic cartographic skills necessary for modern map revision. The project proved necessary as three major developments have impacted on the currency of the initial map developed in 1997, namely the development of Skerries Rock, Kelly's Bay residential areas, and Skerries Town Centre Park.

DIT is delighted to get involved in this project and is particularly pleased that the original map of Skerries, published four years ago with the support of DIT research and development funding, will be brought up to date. Skerries Community College is particularly pleased that its student will work on a 'real world' practical production project, that they will gain an appreciation of cartography and that they will be introduced to a third level institute at an early stage of their education.

Graduate wins second journalism award

By Dermot Keyes

RECENTLY graduated DIT student Carl O'Brien has won his second successive ESB Young Journalist of the Year award. O'Brien, who reports for The Irish Examiner, is a graduate from the journalism degree at the Rathmines School of Journalism at DIT Aungier Street and has been working for the Cork based newspaper for over two years.

During that time, O'Brien has established himself as the country's top young reporter and has written several exposes, most notably his covering of the Jamie

Sinnott case, which exposed the State's denial of the right of education for handicapped children. This story, along with another report, which showed how a drug which claimed to guarantee a healthy pregnancy damaged hundreds of Irish women, secured O'Brien the award for the second successive year.

"There are some inspiring people in DIT who helped me along the way," said O'Brien, "people like Eoghan Corry, David Rice and Michael Foley."

Carl said that the journalism course in Aungier Street

"is a good foundation for anyone who wants to get into journalism." But sitting in a lecture theatre and taking notes is not the only aid to securing a career in the media, he added.

"On top of that you need an interest, enthusiasm and passion in what you're writing about to develop it from there," he added.

O'Brien was recently based in Islamabad, Pakistan, where he reported on the growing tensions in the region following the attacks on the United States on September 11, a period abroad that was marked by

the reciting of "several novenas" by Carl's mother back home in Cork. While in college, O'Brien established himself as a journalist to watch with a series of exposes in the Dublin 8 area when reporting for the in-house student production, The Liberty.

An affable and incredibly dedicated journalist, Carl O'Brien's star looks set to continue its rise in Irish journalism.

● Read about O'Brien's Middle East experiences in our features section.

Lecturers complete further training

By Aisling Casey

A NUMBER of DIT lecturers have completed the first postgraduate Certificate in third Level Learning and Teaching.

The President of DIT, Dr Brendan Goldsmith presented the eight successful graduates with their parchments at an Award Ceremony held at the Learning and Teaching Centre on October 24th.

The course, which was delivered through the Learning and Teaching Centre in Upper Mount Street, is the first of its type designed and delivered specifically for the third level sector in the Republic of Ireland.

It is aimed at both new and experienced lecturers who would like to develop further learning and teaching methods. The course also allows for specific areas of interest in learning and teaching to be explored.

Available to all lecturers in all universities and third level institutions, the course explores topics such as distance learning, problem based learning, or research in higher education. It also provides for instruction in learning technology. The DIT lecturers who successfully completed the postgraduate Certificate course in the academic year 2000-2001 are now among a group of 20 lecturers from a variety of higher education institutions throughout the country who have undertaken the postgraduate course. Dr Goldsmith anticipates that those who have completed the diploma will progress to Masters in the next academic year.

DITSU Constitutional Reform: What do you really want?

By Jarlath Molloy

AS Brendan Goldsmith likes to remind us, "DIT is the largest higher educational institute in the State." If one likes to believe propaganda from a political appointee, does this mean that size matters and biggest means best?

That may be undoubtedly true of true of the DIT, but unfortunately the same does not apply to the DIT Students' Union.

Although since the inception of the DIT Act of 1992, the Students' Union has pro-

vided an encompassing dedicated service through its hard working staff and many officers, DITSU has at times lacked clarity and coherence.

During the last academic year the democratically elected Student Class Representatives chose at DITSU Council, to undertake a full constitutional and strategic review of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union.

Part of this concise

process involves, obviously, the views, opinion and feedback of the student body of DIT. Hopefully your ideas will help us change the structure of the Students' Union to better reflect the needs of its clients.

So here it is again, plain and simple: What do you really want from your Students' Union? Any ideas, thoughts or suggestions can be sent (anonymously if wished) by fax to DITSU Headquarters at 01 4969745 email to president@ditsu.ie, or to me directly at

u_cangetme@hotmail.com or by post to Constitutional Review Committee, DITSU, DIT Rathmines Road, Dublin 6.

Any submissions will be treated equally and with full confidentiality.

I do hope that some of you will take a little time and let us know your feelings relating to this issue.

Jarlath Molloy is the Chairperson of the DITSU Constitutional Review Committee.

DITSU Council round up

Compiled by Dermot Keyes

DITSU annual finances healthy

DITSU Overall President Marguerite Fitzpatrick was happy with the state of the Union's finances when she discussed the annual accounts at the first Council meeting of the new year at the Kevin Street campus.

Fitzpatrick informed councillors that DITSU received £608,000 from student capitation last year, an increase of £33,000 on the figure for the previous year.

Union overheads currently stand at £314,145, some £18,000 higher than the prior academic year.

The Union's operating profit for the year was £69,983, which was almost £8,000 up on the 2000 total.

The net expenses of this newspaper stand at £17,603, which was cost DITSU over £2,000 more during the previous year.

Events and rag week cost the Union £45,270, which was three times higher than the total costs in this area during 1999/2000.

Elections and referenda costs totalled £9,981. Council decided by vote that a copy of the accounts is to be distributed to all councillors for their examination.

New website set for November 8 launch

By the time our paper goes to press, the revamped DITSU website will be online at www.ditsu.ie. A launch is to be held at a later date, Marguerite Fitzpatrick told councillors.

All DIT clubs and societies will be given the opportunity to build their own pages in association with the new site, which will provide a much required central interactive service for both the Union and those it serves.

Constitutional Review - Molloy congratulated for work

Jarlath Molloy, who has been busily working on the review of the DITSU constitution for the past number of months, told councillors that he was "still taking submissions" from students wishing to alter the existing document.

Marguerite Fitzpatrick acknowledged the "excellent work" that Jarlath has put in over the summer and preceding months and added



Jarlath Molloy urged councillors to vote in favour of the amendment to the constitution as the last two elections cost £10,000

that any series of proposed changes to the constitution would have to be decided by referendum.

Grangegorman Campus: Report with Taoiseach's office

The report prepared by the Governing Body of DIT for submission to the Department of the Taoiseach in relation to the proposed northside campus in Grangegorman is currently being studied by Government officials, Council was informed.

A working committee which was established by DIT, which discussed the details of the submission, has "tried to come up with a situation which pleases everyone," according to Marguerite Fitzpatrick.

Consultants were appointed by DIT to compile a consultancy report for consideration by the Department of the Taoiseach, which has to reply to the Institute within the next three months.

Phase one of the proposed campus has been provisionally given a 2007 launch date by the Governing Body. Council's independent chairman and former Overall

President Ross O'Daly said that this would entail the use of playing pitches on the 14 acre site.

Fitzpatrick added that since the site is located in the Taoiseach's own constituency, she believed that the submitted report would receive a



Councillors voted in favour of Kevin Street President Des Alvey's proposal for the provision of tea and coffee facilities for students

positive reply as part of the Institute's strive towards university status.

Common room facilities secured for Rathmines

DIT Rathmines has been the subject of a campaign spearheaded by Overall President Marguerite Fitzpatrick.

"We've been doing our best to secure better facilities in Rathmines, which seems to have been a largely forgotten part of DIT in the past few years," she said.

"At the moment there is no common room in the college and we have been trying to secure an alternative room near the canteen for use as the common room and that is now being currently addressed."

Concerns were also raised by Mountjoy Square President Joseph Walsh in relation to the condition of the Portland Row building for the Institute's art students.

SU shops to provide hot drinks facility

Councillors voted in favour of Kevin Street President Des Alvey's proposal for the provision of tea and coffee facilities to be initially provided for students at the Aungier Street site and for all other DIT sites at a later date.

DITSU Trading believes that profits are not being maximised by the SU shops in Aungier Street, Cathal

Brugha Street and Kevin Street and commercial manager David Pfeiffer believes that tea and coffee service would improve profit margins.

"Once we have this in place in Aungier Street, we will establish parity across the DIT's at a later date," said Alvey. "We already have these services in both Bolton Street and Mountjoy Square and they have been very successful, so we have no reason to believe that this will not be any different in Aungier Street."

Ross O'Daly informed Council that DIT is in the third year of its seven-year waiting phase of consideration by the International Review Committee, which is the ultimate decision maker in relation to the granting of a higher status to the Institute.

Elections to be held on same date

Both the Overall DITSU and Part-time officer elections are to be held on the same date towards the end of the academic year following a debate held by DITSU councillors.

Jarlath Molloy urged councillors to vote in favour of the amendment to the constitution as "the last two elections cost £10,000 between them and to hold them both on the same day would be a practical step forward."

Bolton Street President Neal Cromien supported Molloy's position, stating, "this couldn't be needed more. It is extremely necessary. There has also been a drop in the numbers running for elections in the past few years. If we had the part-time officers in place at the start of the year, then full-time sabbatical officers would be assisted right at the start of the year, right from the off. Is it discriminatory against first year students? I don't think it is because they would still have the opportunity to run at the end of their first year. If you want to get involved in the workings of the union, there is always something to do."

Molloy added that the holding of both elections at the same time would save £3,000 in costs. Despite some concerns expressed by councillors that the move would prove discriminatory to incoming students, the motion was carried.

Students awarded bursary

By Aisling Casey

THE Irish Road Haulage Association (IRHA) has awarded two DIT students a bursary fund to provide them with financial backing while they complete their third level education.

The bursary which is jointly awarded by the IRHA and Haz Chem Training Limited is awarded to degree level students in the areas of Transport and Engineering and Transport and Logistics.

The recipients were Roisin O'Neil studying at Bolton Street and Orla O'Leary, Aungier Street, who have both completed their first year at college.

Roisin from Carlow, participates in her family's business O'Neil Haulage and regularly contributes to the IRHA's Knights of the Road newsletter.

Orla's family also owns a haulage business in Cahir, Co Tipperary. Orla explains her reasons for choosing transport as a line of study: "I believe that the Irish haulage industry's contribution to the economy is undervalued and I hope to change that perception in the future."

The aim of the IRHA is to enable graduates to examine the role of the transport and haulage industry in Ireland and ultimately provide feedback at influential levels to consistently build and improve upon existing industry standards in Ireland.

Commenting on the awards, Sean Daly, President of the IRHA said, "This is a move towards what the IRHA see as the future of the industry in Ireland. It is young educated people who will serve to build this industry and bring about the innovative and necessary changes needed to ensure an efficient and streamlined transport system in this country now and in the future."

Representing Haz Chem Training Limited, Seamus Clear said that he believed strongly that contributing at third level is the way forward for the industry. "I am delighted Haz Chem can contribute to the development of education in the transport industry at this level", he said. He added that, "This is a significant development for the future of the transport and haulage industry here."

Caterers deem salads unprofitable

By Clare Stronge

Students in DIT Mountjoy Square have found cut-backs in their canteen a problem for a healthy lunch.

The salad bar has been removed from Mountjoy Square after it was decided by caterers to be unprofitable.

The catering company Campbell's (who also operate in DIT Bolton Street) said they had to axe the salad bar as there were problems in controlling the size of portions and due to inadequate refrigeration, the company were throwing away huge quantities of

salad at the end of each day.

However Mountjoy Square students are now the only DIT students with no salad option on their canteen menu.

Students in the college are concerned for their health: "It's really not fair, there's nowhere locally to get a fresh salad if you don't want stodgy food, the other DIT's don't have this problem", one third year marketing student commented.

A spokesperson for DIT said that it had no direct control over the content of any of its canteens as the contract is leased to the caterers. However the

catering company does have a policy of meeting consumer health needs; for example there is always a vegetarian option and fresh fruit is available daily.

On the other hand, the company felt it was sufficient to replace the salad bar with ready-made salad sandwiches from Freshways.

An employee of the company however, did suggest to the DIT Independent that a 'Pay and Weigh' system where portions would be regulated could have saved the bar.

DIT student wins premier award

DIT student, Donna O'Malley has won the Inaugural Premier DIT Student Award.

Donna, a native of Westport, was presented with the award at a ceremony held in DIT Bolton Street on the 24th October. She achieved first place with first class honours and a distinction in her graduating quantity surveying class of 2001.

DIT President, Dr Brendan Goldsmith commended Donna for her achievements and wished her every success in her endeavours in the future.

The award was presented to Donna by Mulcahy

McDonagh & Partners Ltd as part of their 50th jubilee year celebrations. The prize, valued at £1,500 is given each year to the best overall student graduating from DIT's Construction Economics & Management Degree course.

Mulcahy & McDonagh & Partner Ltd who are one of Ireland's leading chartered quantity surveyors, presented the new award to celebrate DIT Bolton Street's vital involvement to the surveying profession and construction industry.

The award, which was inaugurated in March, motivates students studying in the field and helps them to devel-

op a communication platform with the industry.

DIT President Dr. Brendan Goldsmith said; "I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge and thank Mulcahy McDonagh &

Partners for establishing this annual award, which gives the students an added incentive to excel in their studies."

He added, "It also has the advantage of developing long lasting mutually beneficial relationships between the DIT and the practitioners in the field."

DIT Independent

Students must stand up and be heard

DITSU's decision to red light a proposed internal abortion referendum was a correct and logical decision. With the State Referendum on this most divisive issue just months away, concerned students will have the opportunity to make their opinions known to the rest of the Irish electorate.

DITSU Council's first meeting of the year reversed a recommendation made by the last sitting Council to hold a cross-site vote on the issue were abortion to feature as a core debate at the next USI Congress. Now that Bertie Ahern has taken that problem out of the Union's hands, the position of DITSU could be rendered null and void by the latest proposed amendment to Bunreacht na hEireann. But that is not to say that abortion as a problematic social issue should not be discussed among either the Union or those it represents.

Now more than ever, young people should ensure that our voices are heard and that we embrace our democratic rights of free speech and suffrage, the cornerstones of liberty.

The spirit of student protest is not what it once was. The French summer of 1968 demonstrated the influence that students have the potential to wield, to topple even the highest of office holders with. In a world which today is gripped by a fear it has not known for forty years, the Irish student populous remains largely unperturbed. The summer gatherings at the Gothenburg and Genoa summits demonstrated that the international student community can make its voice heard and affect change. The Peace marches in Northern Ireland, also held in that momentous year of 1968 appear to have finally ingrained themselves on the body politic in the region. The pursuit of human rights and the establishment of a society built on equality and justice for all, that young graduates such as John Hume first sought thirty-three years ago is tangible, albeit with much work yet to be done.

As a 135,000 strong group in Irish society, the student mass can also herald change if it is rallied and co-ordinated into doing so. That is why the USI has such a massive role to play in the countdown to the General Election.

Now that USI has finally made a political ally in Fine Gael in relation to key issues such as the maintenance grant, President Richard Hammond must do all he can to mobilise the student population to use their vote and make our collective voice heard. It is ludicrous to suggest that someone living away from home can survive on the grant alone. It is ludicrous that DIT still boasts such massive drop-out rates, higher in some regards than any other third-level-body in the country. It is even more ludicrous but inevitable that a majority of students will not vote because many are in the socio-economic safety net and are content to leave their not so fortunate colleagues without a stronger voice.

It will be interesting to see if Fine Gael retains its pledges if it is chosen to lead the next government. Will Michael Noonan be any better to the Irish student than the current Taoiseach? Will he uphold his post-leadership election promise to visit each third level body in the country? Or will he listen with just one ear open? What is clear is that in all elections held in this country to this point, students have remained a voting group that none of the major political parties have tapped into. Sinn Féin has a well run Cumann in DIT Kevin Street and appears to be reflecting the moves that party has made into securing the young vote. But where are the other party presences to be found in DIT? There does not appear to be a huge mobilisation on the ground currently but one would not be all that surprised if a few party moles surfaced around the sites, as they tend to do on the streets every four years.

What is clear is that students can have a massive say in the formation of the next government, a time in which many of us will graduate into the workplace and become tax-paying citizens. That is why voting in both the forthcoming abortion referendum and the general election are musts for the discerning Irish student. We must stand up and be heard.

It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students' Union.

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DIT students scoop design award

By Dermot Keyes

A CD-Rom incepted by DIT students, portraying one family's fight for survival in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, has won the top prize at this year's Institute of Designers in Ireland Design Awards.

The CD-Rom entitled 'Sviatlana' was produced in part fulfilment of Shakira Nelis, Rory Coveney and Melanie McDonagh's MA in Interactive Media. According to Nelis, the project designer and recipient of the Glen Dimplex Grand Prix prize for overall best

designer and winner in the Multimedia: CD-Rom Category, the concept for Sviatlana came from Rory Coveney's work with the Chernobyl Children's Project.

Referring to the portrayal of the life of Sviatlana, a Belarusian woman and the difficulties that her family faced in struggling to live with the devastating consequences of the accident, jury co-chairman Andrew Bailey described it as "truly an outstanding piece of design work."

The CD-Rom has received

widespread praise and was chosen as an exhibit in the "Black Wind, White Land" exhibition held at the United Nations headquarters in New York last April to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the accident.

The DIT School of Media Studies along with the Faculty of Arts congratulated Shakira, Rory and Melanie on the development of such an outstanding MA project and extended a particular word of congratulations to Shakira for winning such a prestigious award.



Shakira Nelis, with the Irish Design Award which she and her colleagues Rory Coveney and Melanie McDonagh won

USI seeks e-vote for students

THE National Student Voter Registration Week was recently launched in colleges to maximise the student vote at the next general election.

The fundamental goal of the campaign is the promotion of democracy, according to USI President Richard Hammond. "By ensuring that students are registered and by encouraging all students to vote, we hope to deliver the biggest turnout of the 18-25 vote ever," he said. "Successive governments have totally failed Ireland's students and a General Election is the best time for students to have their issues addressed."

The USI believes a large turnout will have a significant impact.

To highlight the large amount of student voters, Hammond hopes to organise a pledge campaign where students sign a card to individual politicians promising to cast their vote on what that politician's stance is on educational issues.

These include student financial support, student purpose accommodation, medical cards and student parent allowances.

"A lot of times politicians ignore student issues because they believe not enough of them vote - we're going to make sure they can't ignore it next time," he said.

Recent research indicates that 14 per cent of people aged 18-25 are currently not registered to vote. USI's aim is to have 100 per cent of students registered for the upcoming election.

The first phase of the campaign involves stands in college campuses throughout the country. The next phase will involve educating students about what the political parties stand for. Information leaflets and posters on campus are being considered.

Issues such as on campus ballot boxes, Sunday voting and Internet voting feature among the ways Mr Hammond believes student participation can be increased.

The USI have sent submissions to the Department of the Environment concerning Internet voting, which is a long-term goal.

In February 2000, the Government agreed to introduce e-voting in Ireland and redraft legislation to facilitate it.

The Department of the Environment is currently examining the possibility of using electronic voting and counting equipment. If it is found to work, a new system may be used in the local government elections in 2004. But even if technology voters will



"A lot of times politicians ignore student issues because they believe not enough of them vote - we're going to make sure they can't ignore it next time," says USI President Richard Hammond

still have to travel to use it.

Major concerns about Internet voting are privacy, voter authentication and ballot integrity. The possibility of viruses is a very real one, and could render the submission of electronically altered ballots impossible. Fear of the site going down on voting day and voters losing their PIN numbers, are some of the other concerns. Advocates argue that if billions of pounds can be traded safely every year over the Internet to buy shares, it would be possible to maintain the secrecy of the ballot box and the security of the votes.

The concept of online voting for students has already been explored in some German universities for internal elections. Election.com, organised the world's first national online election - a voluntary and unofficial election by US students a week before the presidential Election Day on November 7th last.

The aim of the project was to encourage students to become future voters and inspire their parents to vote on Election Day. - Campus.ie

Union split on referendum

from page 1

Commenting on the possibility of a referendum, Marguerite Fitzpatrick said, "I wasn't at the last USI Congress but I was concerned that enough thought had not gone into the decision to hold a referendum. After I came into office, I talked to the executive about the issue and decided to go and do a bit of research into it by contacting USI and other colleges."

She added, "The students back then wanted DIT to take a pro or anti stance on the issue. However, in my view an opinion poll would not do any good. It is hard to represent everybody's views. As far as I am concerned an opinion poll is not the way to go."

However, not all members of DITSU Council were happy with taking a neutral stance on the issue. In reaction to this, Marguerite told *The DIT Independent* that "Abortion is a very sensitive issue and needs to be considered carefully. It is pointless having an abortion referendum and a waste of money doing an opinion poll. I know at council people commented that we were sitting on the fence again but with a referendum we will never be able to represent everybody."

"We could find out everybody's feelings on different abortion policies but in terms of money, would it make a difference", she added.

Yet, DITSU President, Bolton St, Neal Cromien believes that a referendum is the only way to find out exactly what DIT students want. He said, "I feel that in order to find out what our students want, we need to have a referendum." Speaking on the issue of a referendum turning into an opinion poll, Neal said, "I wasn't elected by 100 per cent of the electorate but I represent 100 per cent of them."

Aungier St President, Karl Bonnar agrees that DITSU should hold a referendum. "There should be a referendum. We are to here to represent our students", he said. He also said that if a referendum did take place, the results would not be portrayed as a majority ruling, but that the exact results would be highlighted.

FOCUS ON

Portland Row in a row

By Debbie Flood
and Aoife Stokes

DIT is carrying out a full report into the condition of the colleges Fine Art building in Portland Row following an inspection of the campus by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA).

The college was served with an improvement notice by the HSA after the authority noted a lack of a safety plan and a lack of maintenance in the Portland Row building.

The building, which is used by Fine Arts students,

was closed for three weeks in September after toilets on the first floor of the building were found to be leaking through to the rooms below.

Speaking to the *DIT Independent*, Anita Groeber, Course Co-ordinator and health and safety representative of Portland Row, said that staff and students had been instructed by their perspective unions not to enter the building once this leakage had been discovered.

DIT Co-ordination and Services Officer, Michael Marnane, said that whilst there was a problem with water seeping into the section of the building which DIT leased, this was a problem with one of the other tenants and that the matter had been resolved by the landlord. "We've made good any damage done", he said.

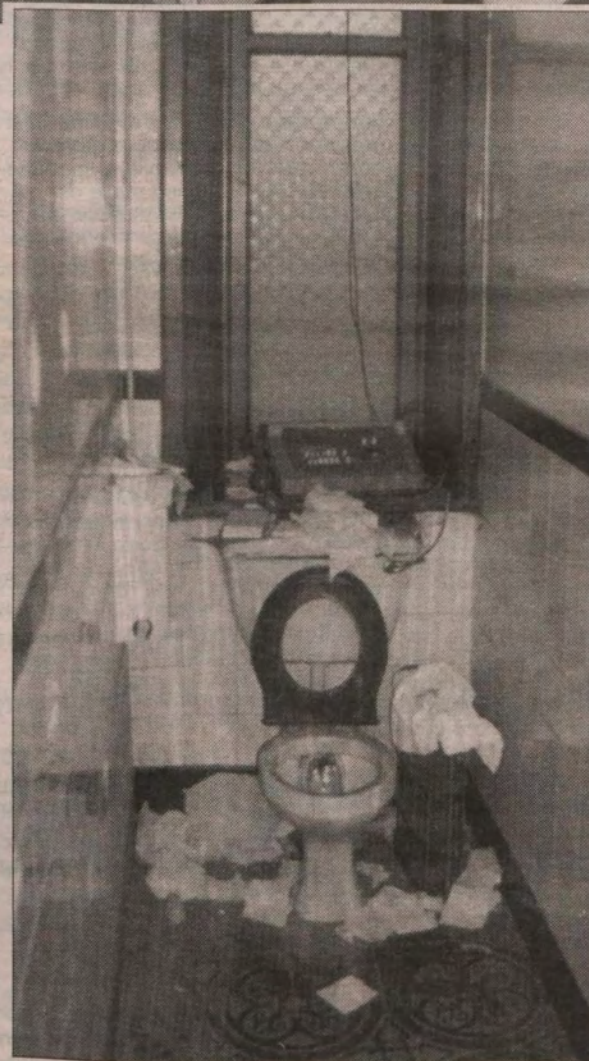
Ms Groeber said that as health and safety representative in the building, she was not satisfied that the situation was adequate saying



The college was served with an improvement notice by the HSA after the authority noted a lack of a safety plan and a lack of maintenance



Portland Row, which is used by Fine Arts students, was closed for three weeks in September after toilets on the first floor of the building were found to be leaking through to the rooms below.



that previous problems with leaking sewage had been patched up but there was no guarantee that it wouldn't happen again.

She also described waste pipes and manholes in the building which are exuding a bad smell.

Mr Marnane said that officials from Enterprise Ireland had checked out any sewage problems and that it was now absolutely safe.

Describing the area in which the Portland Row building is situated as "less than desirable",

Mr Marnane said that given the nature of the work they do, Fine Arts students need large open spaces to harness their creativity which is why the building was originally selected by DIT some eight years ago.

However Ms Groeber expressed concern that a health and safety report had never been issued on the building.

"We're awaiting action from DIT but we haven't seen anything yet", she said.

Students at Portland Row feel badly effected by the three-week closure of the college last September, experiencing particular pressure in completing their project for their Christmas assessments.

Head of the school of Art and Design and Printing, John O'Connor said, "the report is a cause for grave concern and I am hopeful that the buildings office in consultation with the school

is addressing the situation with urgency".

Another major problem facing the students is the notable absence of canteen facilities.

Over a hundred full time students go to Portland Row but their canteen is a small bare room with four tables and only ten chairs.

Up until last year Campbell's Catering supplied fresh sandwiches and pastries to the college but Mr Marnane said the situation had proved uneconomical for the college.

Instead management have installed a confectionery dispenser and drinks machine.

Ms Groeber described this lack of facilities as some-

thing that she is not happy with also highlighting inadequacies in relation to fire exits and stairs.

She feels that there are a lot of problems to be resolved that the "staff have put up with it for years for fear of jeopardising staff and students".

One factor that may have bought this issue to the fore is that Portland Rows local building manager, Mr Paul McDunphy, moved to Cathal Brugha Street in September leaving this position vacant in Portland Row.

The position is only now being interviewed for.

The improvement notice issued by the HSA to the buildings office of DIT runs out on December 16th.

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Marked improvement for Clubs and Socs training

By Aedín Donnelly

ON THE morning of the 2nd of November, some one hundred students and union sabbaticals set off for DIT's annual Clubs and Societies training weekend.

'The Táin Village' set on the lakefront, and located outside the Co. Louth village of Carlingford, was our destination. In the past, training weekends have taken place in towns as far afield as Westport, Co. Mayo. The decision to travel to Carlingford loch this year, was the first of many reforms we were to experience over the course of the weekend.

On arrival, everyone was fed and watered, assigned to bedrooms and given training packs for the weekend. As we were all ushered into the conference room after our brief break, it became clear that things were going to be

far more organised this time around. A quick glance at our weekend timetables confirmed this, and from that point on, events ran with incredible fluidity.

The afternoon plan was packed solid with different modules on Public Speaking, Negotiation, and Promotion among other things. At first it seemed as though this was going to be no different to a normal college day, but then we were introduced to Colin McGivern, facilitator for Friday's sessions.

Having listened to Colin for only a few minutes, it began to dawn on me that the afternoon, the whole weekend in fact, might just turn out to be interesting, even enjoyable.

Colin was professional, confident, and, most importantly, funny. Under his guidance the afternoon flew by



From left: Paul Hamilton, Alana Moore and Eoin Kearney at Clubs and Socs training

and before we knew it, it was dinnertime.

After dinner we settled ourselves back into the conference room for another hour or so of group sessions.

While we sat back and digested our food, a group of a dozen or so brave volunteers who fancied themselves as public speakers took to the floor. Each person was asked to spend a couple of minutes giving an ad-lib speech to the audience.

Topics ranged from the 'devastation of drugs', delivered by funnyman and DIT Bolton St site president Neal Cromien, to 'Shakespeare' and 'Holiday Camps'.

Following an entertaining hour on Public Speaking, John McKenna, Cathal Brughá St site president, and Joe Walsh, Mountjoy Sq site president spoke to us about the Chernobyl Childrens Fund, and their own time in Belarus.

Both spoke movingly about the children they had met and the horrific conditions they had experienced during their visit to the site of the 1986 nuclear disaster. For me, this hour was the least entertaining of the weekend, but probably the most valuable and memorable.

As part of the excellent

facilities available in the holiday village, the complex bar was handed over to the group for the evening - and by god did we make good use of it!!

Everybody was given a few drink vouchers to get us warmed up for the evening and ready to participate in the party games hosted by the Student's Union sabbaticals.

For anyone who was sober enough to sit and watch others making happy fools of themselves during these games, the evening proved to be very entertaining!

But those who were feeling 'relaxed' enough to take part were almost all seen crawling around the grounds holding

their heads in their hands while groaning painfully the following morning. Not to worry, a good night was had by all!

Saturday morning, and after a substantial 'Táin' fry-up most of us were feeling vaguely human again and willing to have a stab at the adventure activities staff had laid on for us.

Those who seemed to be immune to hangovers braved the cold lake waters and went kayaking or banana boating, others who could still have been described as 'suffering' stuck with the dryer options of archery or hillwalking.

Another feed at one o'clock, and an afternoon of sessions followed to wrap up what could only be described as a hugely successful and enjoyable weekend.

This feeling was echoed in particular by the organisers of the weekend.

Marguerite Fitzpatrick, overall DITSU president described the stay as; "a big improvement on last year. In general there was far more participation, people contributed more to the weekend."

Everyone agreed that the weekend's success was, at least in part, thanks to the 'very professional' and generally 'excellent' facilitators.



As part of the excellent facilities available in the holiday village, the complex bar was handed over to the group for the evening

DIT must end University 'Obsession'

By Aisling Casey

DIT should stop its obsession with becoming another university and concentrate instead on developing its own strengths, according to former a former president of the Dublin City University (DCU) Dr Danny O'Hare.

Speaking about the issue, Dr O'Hare said many people in institutes of technology were obsessed with getting university status.

He said, "There is no reason why, given the right conditions, universities and institutes of technology should not be recognised equally as centres of excellence".

He added that IT's and universities should not be competing with each other but rather offering distinguished services in their own distinctive fields.

However, President of DIT, Dr Brendan Goldsmith, refers to this as precisely the same argument Dr O'Hare used when seeking university des-

ignation for the then National Institute of Higher Education in Dublin (NIHE).

He added, "It is also interesting to note that NIHE raised only very minor amounts of money from private donations whereas DCU has been the recipient of generous benefaction. Further evidence, if any is needed, of the importance in an Irish context of the name university."

In 1998, DIT applied for university status but was rejected by the Higher Education Authority. However, the executive was told that DIT could be established as a university if and when a range of conditions were met.

These include improvements in physical facilities, an improved research capacity, an increase in the proportion of academic staff with higher degrees and that DIT must ensure an effective system of monitoring standards.



Dr Brendan Goldsmith said, "Dr O'Hare seems to believe that a common name implies a common nature"

Dr O'Hare compared the Irish situation with the American Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He said although MIT was an institute of technology, nobody would argue that it was not on the same level as universities such as Yale or

Harvard.

Commenting on this, Dr Brendan Goldsmith said, "Dr O'Hare seems to believe that a common name implies a common nature; thus he speaks of MIT as if it were an institute of technology, in the Irish sense of that name."

He added, "MIT's website (www.mit.edu) describes it as "a co-educational, privately endowed research university."

In effect MIT is an elite, research-led university, whereas DIT's mission is to be a mass education, research-informed comprehensive university. For DIT to aspire to be an MIT would be a serious mission drift and in effect would be imitating universities in precisely the way that Dr O'Hare (correctly) says is so undesirable."

In conclusion, Dr Goldsmith said that he would agree with Dr O'Hare on one point. "DIT and universities could be equal but different if

the correct level of autonomy was present. But this raises another issue: why would the full provisions of the University Act 1996 not be applied to DIT and if that happened what would be the logic of denying DIT the title university?" he said.

Speaking on the future of DIT, Dr O'Hare said, "I do not believe that their best future would be in becoming another university in the Dublin area. Rather I see their future as being the leader of a new and rejuvenated national network of institutes of technology."

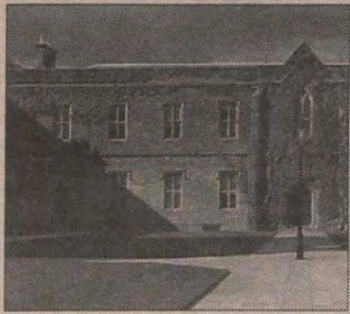
"It is not the best course for the institutes themselves, nor for the people who work in them, nor for the people they immediately serve, nor for the wider national community that the IT sector itself serves", he added.

DITSU President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick disagreed with the attitude of the former DCU president. She

said, "I do believe that DIT should keep pushing for university status. I know that this is difficult given that we are in an area of the country surrounded by universities but we are a step up from the other ITs in the country and a step behind the universities".

However, further attempts to gain university status will not be looked on likely for the states largest third level college, following scathing criticism in May of DIT's bad management and poor internal communications.

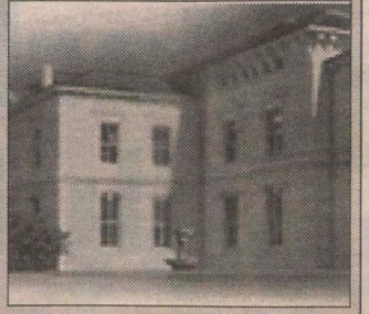
As a member of the governing body of DIT, Marguerite commented on the findings of the public accounts committee saying, "We should be confident that the governing body of DIT is currently addressing the problem outlined by the committee".



Third level tales

Campus.ie takes the DIT Independent on a trip around Ireland's colleges for a look at what's making inter-varsity news

www.campus.ie



Testing exam success

A UNIVERSITY in Singapore is pioneering an initiative which sends students their exam results via text messages to mobile phones - removing the need for crowd control at exam notice boards.

With an estimated 80 per cent of Temasek College's 13,000 full-time students having mobile phones, the new system is expected to work out cheaper and more efficient than traditional post. The system has cost \$10,000 (UK£3,800) to install and was tested over three months, using

500 students. The college refused to comment on the margin of error, or what would happen if students were sent the wrong grades, when contacted by the Straits Times newspaper.

Students will have to register online at the polytechnic's website to receive the service. Those who do not register will receive their results via more conventional post, or by logging on to the college website. The Nanyang Technological University introduced a mobile

phone results service earlier this year, but it employed wireless application protocol (WAP) technology which proved much less popular, possibly because the students had to pay to access it.

For the first time in Ireland, DCU pioneered exam results on-line via web-enabled (WAP) mobile phones this year. WAP technology enables users access to information on a variety of handheld wireless devices. (The primary make tested by the DCU Computer Services

Department for this initiative is the Siemens S35i.) Students were able to log into the DCU website at <http://wap.dcu.ie> and then select "Exam Results".

They then had to key in their student ID number and password to view their results on screens.

Commentators believe that student access to exam information on various technologies is likely to develop rapidly in the next few years.

Canteen Boycott at Trinity

TRINITY College Students' Union recently organised a boycott of the four college catering outlets and the Buttery bar, in protest at the 12 per cent price increase that came into effect at the start of October.

Pickets were placed at the entrance to each catering outlet. TCSU presented proposals to the College Board calling for a reversal of the increase, greater student representation on the Catering management committee, and a fairer spread of increases to keep the cost of essentials down. The SU said the college authorities' response to proposals was "unsatisfactory".

"We organised the boycott so students could demonstrate their anger and sense of injustice at the rising cost of food on campus and college policies with regards catering, which are completely at odds with their expressed support for greater students financial support and concerns about equal access to education," Students' Union President, Averil Power explained. Welfare Officer, Eimear Nic An Bhaird, has accused the policies in the catering department of showing "a remarkable lack of regard for student's financial burden".

Breaking down barriers at Sligo IT

THE Institute of Technology Sligo is set to launch an innovative course that will break down the barriers currently preventing people from going to college.

Aimed at adults who failed to qualify for higher education, the Special Foundation Course will enable them to study further for a third-level qualification.

Training in introductory mathematics, computer skills, new technology, taking lecture notes, and how to use a library as a learning resource, are just some of the areas covered. "We hope people who had difficulty with mathematics before will actually get to like maths. It will allow them the opportunity to follow maths-based courses and almost every course now has some maths requirement," said Pat Curley, head of the Institute's Life Long Learning Programme.

Run on a part-time basis, two mornings a week, the course aims to facilitate as broad a section of the public as possible. The course will also make crèche support available and will be free to social welfare recipients. Students will get a taste of all the Institute's courses, to give them a better idea of what area they are interested in pursuing after the introductory course.

Applicants are chosen on the basis of their application form and an interview. Students who complete the course will be awarded a Foundation Certificate.

Postgrad Students getting unfair deal - report

THE NUS-USI has issued an attack on Ireland's universities, accusing them of exploiting postgraduate students by "failing to promote their employment rights".

This comes on the back of a survey of postgraduate student employment practices, which revealed that 38 per cent of respondents had received no training for their paid work. Over 69 per cent said there was no clear mechanism for the evaluation or assessment of their paid work.

The recent survey, carried out by the AUT, NUS and the UK National Postgraduate Committee, found that many postgraduate students and exploited as employees - with a majority working twice as many hours as they are paid for.

"In the weeks to come, the Union will organise a number of meetings to outline a new postgraduate employer rights charter, and encourage the formation of postgraduate societies to promote these rights," NUS-USI Student Movement co-ordinator, Brian Slevin said. Student leaders hope to lobby for an increase in the number and value of postgraduate awards and are calling for a specific review of financial support for this section of the student community.

Representatives from the National Postgraduate Committees in Great Britain and Ireland will be in attendance, together with members of the Association of University Teachers.

Further Ireland-France research encouraged

'Ulysses,' the Ireland-France Research Visits Scheme, was recently relaunched to promote further collaboration between Irish and French researchers.

Since 1997, the scheme has supported over 100 projects, made possible by Enterprise Ireland's £20,000 and 160,000 francs from the CNRS involving both Irish researchers visiting France, and French researchers visiting Ireland.

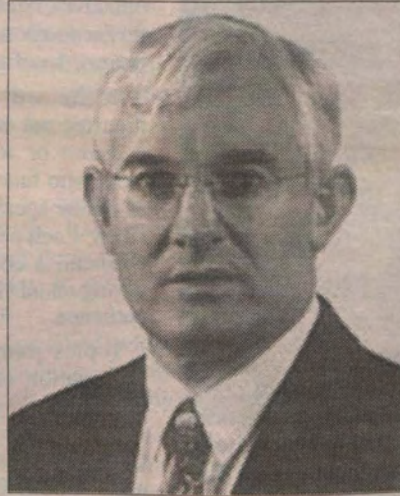
The research visits provide researchers with access to a wealth of data and sources, which would not be available to them at home - covering a wide range of research endeavours including the sciences, engineering and the humanities.

The scheme has a role to play in

addressing problems for which neither party individually has all of the necessary background and expertise.

Enterprise Ireland, the Royal Irish Academy, the French Embassy and the French state research agency, CNRS, are the key players in the partnership between Ireland and France. Speaking at the launch, Minister Noel Treacy pointed out that Ireland still has only a relatively limited presence in international research endeavour, which this scheme aims to address.

The Minister acknowledged the significant advances in funding for research in Ireland including Science Foundation Ireland, the Higher Education Authority's Programme for Research in Third Level Institutes (PRTL), and the Enterprise Ireland Schemes.



Minister Noel Treacy: acknowledged advances in funding

Online medical studies site launched

THE medical faculties at Trinity College, University College Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland have teamed up to launch Ireland's first Inter-College medical student community website.

Set up by medical students, www.studyingmedicine.com offers students tutorials, clinical teaching videos, discussion forums and daily lecture notes.

The site's interactive conversational facilities, gives Leaving Certificate students the opportunity to talk to third level medical students - to get an insight into the work involved in pursuing a medical career. International students considering pursuing medicine here can avail of the site's travel timetables and

event guides, as well as viewing a webcam of Dublin - to make their trip to Ireland less daunting.

The running of the site is undertaken by 12 students representing all 3 Dublin medical colleges who regularly meet with staff of the medical faculty.

Medical lecturers in the faculties have strongly endorsed the website as a tool for students who are thinking of studying medicine and those students currently studying medicine.

The project plans to extend the network to include the medical colleges in Cork and Galway.

"Only 'medically fit' can go to college" - China

UNIVERSITIES in China are set to introduce stringent new examinations to test applicants' medical suitability and physical fitness, in an attempt to "engineer" a stronger, healthier population "free from physical and mental handicaps".

Teenagers whose legs differ in length by more than two inches or whose spine is curved by 1.5 inches will be barred from courses as varied as geology, law and civil engineering, the South China Morning Post recently reported.

Students who have cancer, epilepsy, high blood pressure or "mental disorder" will be prevented from enrolling

altogether.

The new rules have forced many able and successful students who suffer from physical ailments to abandon their plans of further education.

Only five per cent of the student population can have college places, although some 20 per cent apply.

The Chinese authorities' defend the policy in view of the level of competition to get into college.

They believe the system will weed out imperfect applicants.

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Pakistan Diary

By Carl O'Brien

Islamabad. September 18th

So where's all the action? There are no street protests, no sign of violence. Bar some bored looking soldiers, all is a picture of serenity.

A look at the map shows Islamabad is around four hours drive from the border. Not that the news anchors from CNN, BBC or NBC broadcasting from the rooftop of the plush Marriot Hotel.

On TV it may look like they're within shooting distance of the border, but the main priority seem to be staying within reaching distance of room service. The hotel has been transformed into a three ringed media circus, as hacks yak loudly into mobile phones and technicians cram their hotels rooms full of satellite gear, and news anchors battle for space on the roof.

President Musharraf appears on TV in his combat gear and tells the nation he is throwing his support behind the US and calls for the nation to unite. Everyone gulps in fear, expecting that civil war could erupt within days.

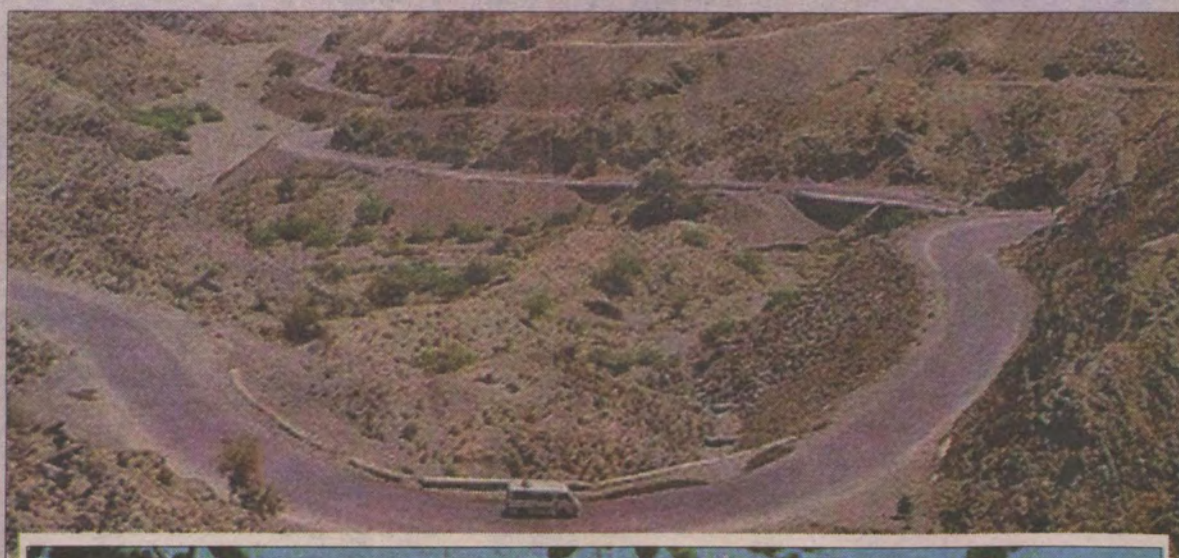
Who built this place? The city is divided into a crazy grid system, intersected by long Stalinist avenues which lead up to the parliament. It's a strange, sterile, vacuous kind of place. It's definitely time to move on.

Rawalpindi. September 19th

I find a driver and a translator and we head for the sprawling city of Rawalpindi. I go native for dinner and eat with the locals. A dead cockroach in one of the chicken dishes doesn't perturb them, but I manage to prevent myself throwing up spectacularly over the food. This is a different place altogether. The wailing of mosques drifts across the city can be heard from every street corner. Hordes of people and spluttering motorbike taxis compete for space on the manic streets.

Some imposing looking Islamic fundamentalists are on the march. They tell me they plan to call for a nation-wide strike the next day in opposition to Pakistan's alliance with the US.

Not everyone feels the same way. Over a cup of green tea some carpet



The Khyber Pass, Pakistan

sellers say they have had enough of war. All they want is a peaceful solution. The Catholic owner of a shoeshop is so frightened of reprisal attacks he brings me to a backroom so I won't be seen and says he wants to get out of the country as tensions begin to mount.

Peshawar. September 20th

The border is a dangerous, turbulent, unpredictable place. A bit like

South Kerry, in a lot of ways. The closest city to the border is Peshawar and after a three hour journey I arrive into a maelstrom of street protests and police road-blocks.

An angry crowd of around 15,000 fundamentalists surge through the narrow city streets, like a raging river of anger. They stop to listen to one of the religious leaders. "Jihad is our way"!, "Bush will die" and

"Death to Americans!" shout the crowd. One of the more vocal protesters roars at the top of his voice, but accidentally steps on a US journalist's foot. "Sorry mister!, sorry mister!" he says to the reporter. Just don't step on their toes.

In reality the protesters are a minority. The middle classes and shopkeepers watch the protests with a jaundiced eye and say they have been hijacked by opportunistic political parties.

Peshawar. September 23rd.

That dodgy curry with the cockroach comes back to haunt me. Voltaire once wrote about the world falling out of his bottom. Now I know what it's like to have the bottom fall out of your world. This is a severe dose of the backdoor trots. The newsdesk at the Irish Examiner don't have much sympathy, however. When I tell them the most violent thing I've come across is the whiff from the jacks, they are not amused.

North Western Frontier, September 25th

The Taliban don't like me much. So when they try to get an interview with Sufi Mohammed, the chief of the Pakistan Taliban in the lawless north west province, he doesn't say yes. I have a plan, however.

A Pakistan friend rings up and tells his aide that I am from Ireland the country which is fighting Britain for independence and is sympathetic to the plight of the Taliban militia. Incredibly, he agrees to do the interview. High up in the white dusty mountains we meet. The firebrand leader says he had an army of potentially thousands who are willing to cross over the border. Most have already gone that's why the madrassahs, or religious schools, are empty.

The countdown to war is looming.

Peshawar. September 29th

The police don't like reporters going to the border. It means the conditions refugees are forced to endure is highlighted. Still, there are ways and means of getting to the border. My guide tells me I'll have to dress up in traditional Muslim gear so I won't be spotted by the security forces as we try to cross the checkpoints.

The baggy trousers and prayer cap fit well, but I can't get the rope to fasten my trousers together, so I put on a belt discreetly. This all goes very well for a few minutes until a passer-by helpfully points out that my trousers have dropped to my ankles.

In order to try and bypass the checkpoints we drive off the main road, through fields and dry river beds. Once off the highway the border area is controlled by tribal militias. Fortunately my guide is known among the tribe we come across.

After a few judicious bribes, some Kalashnikov wielding soldier hop into a truck and give us an armed escort to the border. The landscape is almost lunar, with white boulders and vast dusty plains.

Down the jagged ravines and steep gorges the refugees are trickling through, carrying all their worldly possession on the backs of a few donkeys.

They know borders are sealed and this is their only hope to avoid the impending war. One man says he has left a son at home to guard the house. But here they have nothing here for his five young children with them. Here, in the first year of the 21st century, a man and his family escape the midday sun behind a mudhut wall with no food or water.

Peshawar October 4th

Sending copy back to the newspaper is tough enough at the best of times. It gets easier when I discover a basement Internet facility run by some young Pakistanis.

Dressed in traditional dress and prayers caps, they press their faces close to their screens. As I pass, I notice they are all looking at porn. Cover up your women in public, but we can look at them in private, seems to be the message.

The homepage on the computer is pre set at xxxhotgirls.com but no one seems to mind that I've stumbled into their parallel universe.



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Running away with the Cirque

I woke to a torrential downpour. Why was I surprised it is Ireland and I was on my way to the circus. Day one of my new career. Undeterred by the lack of cooperation from the elements, I had my Ready Brek and left.

On arrival at the already mud soaked field, I was greeted by Tracy, a 33year old English acrobat. Tracy does the cord lease act. That's the one where you climb up a rope to about 13 meters and then dangle by your big toe

Last week when the DIT stairs became a little too exhaustive and the guilt feeling that comes from extending lunch breaks into the wee small hours, one DIT student, who shall remain nameless, decided to pack it all in and run away with the circus. Apparently it used to be quite common.



It was a more modern style of circus with no animals, no acts with fire and no ringmaster

while you swing over and back. It looks amazing but I would probably be more suited to juggling or something a little less like flying free style.

The 23 circus performers at Gandeys' Cirque Surreal in the RDS had dozens of reasons for their initial subscription to the world of acrobats and canvas. Tracey had joined for love. "While I was at school I used to groom horses for a stunt-man. One summer he decided to join the circus for 3 weeks and I went with him. I groomed his horses and then I fell in love with the drummer in the circus. So the stunt man I worked for left and I stayed."

Phillip Gandeys, the owner and director of the circus offered Tracy a job. She started by putting up the posters, but quickly progressed to helping out on stage. "I'd carry in snakes and that. I assisted in the knife throwing act with Phillip, where I would stand at the board and he would throw the knives at



The 23 circus performers at Gandeys' Cirque Surreal in the RDS had dozens of reasons for their initial subscription to the world of acrobats and canvas

things like that."

Tracy introduced me to Jamil, who is 18 and has been in the circus for 6 years already. He is the football juggler in the show, which didn't sound too impressive to me until I saw his act. Jamil spent the next 2 hours trying to teach me to juggle just two footballs.

A far cry from the six he was using, but still an impossibility for my little fingers. Jamil followed in the footsteps of both his parents and grandparents when he joined the circus, and most of his friends were also involved in

it. Meanwhile, I had failed to even balance a football on my hand let alone on my finger, so my thoughts turned to the trapeze. I used to love swings!

While awaiting my debut on the trapeze I was taking a look around the place. I hadn't been struck by the waft of animal shit that I remembered as being predominant in the circuses of my childhood. I soon found out why. There are no animals in this show. It was a more modern style of circus with no animals, no acts with fire and no ringmaster.

Damn, this wasn't my idea

of a circus, but I did still want to try the trapeze.

On my final evening, after three days of the sweet sickening smell of popcorn and candyfloss, I decided that the trapeze is not as much fun as it looks. The idea of just a thin length of elastic as my only safety device at 15 meters from the ground was just too much to take.

So realising that there was only one thing left to do, I turned my back on the thrills and spills of the circus and headed for DIT with my tail tucked between my legs and my two feet firmly on the ground.

There was a time when a pub lunch in Ireland consisted of an Easi-Single between two slices of bread and a packet of Tayto crisps. That particular gourmet experience has been replaced by an explosion of paninis, ciabattas and various liquid fruit concoctions, although there are still a few more traditional lunches to be had. We decided to try some of the capitals finest (and not so fine) pub lunches.

The cafe/bar experience

The Modern Green Bar, Wexford Street. 7/10

This is one of the many trendy bars to have sprung up in this area in recent times, and lunch here is extremely popular. The menu is a mix of salads, pastas and stir-frys, as well as the ubiquitous paninis. Old favourites such as the BLT and the cheeseburger also make an appearance. The food is generally good and reasonably priced. I

had a caesar salad, which was tasty, if over-dressed, and my companion had chips n dips with sausages. The ideal soaker-upper for that liquid lunch. Our only grievance was the constant presence of little flies over the plates. *Do say:* Decaf double shot latte please. *Dont say:* Do you have any Chef Brown Sauce?

The country-style pub experience Devitts, Camden Street. 7/10

This one is a more traditional pub, which is reflected in the menu. It consists generally of various roasted meats, and staples such as lasagne, chicken curry and suchlike. Not a panini in sight (although toasted sandwiches are available). On this occasion I tried the lasagne, which was more like savoury mince, but nonetheless

quite satisfying. My co-reviewer had the burger, which was a ball of mince and onion, served on a bun with chips and coleslaw. The burger had the air of something which had been cooked for some time. Nonetheless, the plate was cleared. Most main courses are between £3.50 and £6.

Do say: A pot of Lyons tea please. *Dont say:* Are these potatoes organic?

The carvery experience

ONeills, Suffolk Street. 5/10

This is one of the most popular lunch venues in the city centre, and most days has a huge queue of people along the carvery counter. As well as the usual hot food, theres also a salad and sandwich counter. I find it very difficult to get excited about self-ser-

vice carvery, so in the interests of objectivity, I brought along a fan of this particular style of dining. He had lamb with an assortment of vegetables which he declared to be bloody good. I had chicken of some description, which was fine if unexceptional. If carvery lunches are your thing, then this appears to be the place for it.

Do say: Can I have extra gravy with that please? *Dont say:* Excuse me, can you take our order please?

The divine experience

Fallons, The Coombe 10/10

Make no mistake about it this is without doubt the best lunch in Dublin. The secret here is simplicity, because the menu consists of soup and toasted sandwiches. Not very exciting, I hear you say, but

thats where youre wrong. Fallons was so good the first time that we went back for more, just to be sure it wasnt a fluke. The soup is better than Granny used to make. The sandwiches have a number of qualities which set them apart from the average toastie - made on batch bread, grilled rather than put in one of those useless machines, actually hot and crispy, properly melted cheese, and supplied with mustard and mayonnaise. And the coffee and tea come with an After Eight. Best of all, soup, a toasted special (ham, cheese, tomato and onion) and tea or coffee will set you back around a fiver, if not less, in one of the cosiest pubs in Dublin.

Do say: Ill have soup and a special please.

Dont say: Do you take Visa?

Dublins finest pub lunches

Gambling: the silent illness

A car pulls up near an abandoned storehouse. A young man opens the car door, distraught after a day which has not gone well. Only it hasn't been just that day. It has been weeks, months and years of personal problems which have blighted both his life and that of his family. Gambling has become the bane of Jim's* life and there appears to be only one solution. (*name changed)

"I tried to commit suicide," says Jim, sipping his mug of tea. "I had a bucket and a lead for a tape recorder and I saw a tree nearby. I felt that I could end the pain; I wasn't thinking of anything. I kicked the bucket from under myself. In that instant the pain disappeared but for some reason God was looking after me. I was actually on the tips of my toes and stayed that way for about 10 or 15 minutes. It was like an eternity but I eventually got down, sat into my car and went off home. Life is now looking after me." Jim's honesty and comfort with talking to a complete stranger seems to have been honed from the hundreds of Gamblers Anonymous (GA) meetings and sessions at the Table Lodge facility in Cork, which also assists recovering alcoholics. It has been over a year since he last placed a bet and he states smiling, "it's good to live life."

Jim's gambling became a serious problem when he started university. "It began one day when I joined in a game of poker," he said. "I played poker all day and I began to miss days of lec-

Your student days are supposed to be the best of your life. However, it doesn't work out like that for everyone. What starts out as fun can lead to a serious addiction, with the potential to wreck your academic career, and indeed, your life. By

Dermot Keyes

were a big thing at the time," he said. "I bought a tanner's worth of those scratch cards and I got four of the letters which made up the word 'viking.' If you got the whole word you won a hundred thousand pounds and I thought that I'd win the prize no problem; I thought that beating the system wasn't going to be a problem. I ended up spending a thousand pounds that day alone trying to get the other two letters. I thought the system couldn't beat me." Inevitably, it did and as Jim's addiction intensified, so too did all the problems that accompany such an illness, one Jim himself described as "the silent illness."

Jim's secret addiction was finally revealed when the local branch bank manager contacted his mother in relation to a number of forged cheques which had been issued in her name. At first Jim denied it, but he eventually admitted his guilt, claiming he "had tried to beat the system." Earlier that day, he had placed a substantial bet on a horse and when his distraught mother had left the sitting room, he switched on the teletext to see if he had won.

bets that I had lost and she seemed a bit stunned. She told me that I had a problem and I was there thinking to myself, 'what do you know, you're a woman, you've never gambled before'; it's a male assertive thing to think like that."

Trying to prove his point, Jim produced a briefcase, bulging with the losing dockets. This merely confirmed his doctor's fears. "She told me about Gamblers Anonymous and the first thing I thought was that it was a place where I could learn how not to lose." When he arrived at his first meeting, established members of GA showed Jim the 20 questions located in the back pages of the small red GA handbook, the group's manual for daily recovery from addiction.

"They showed me the 20 yes or no questions and if you answer seven of them yes, that showed you were a compulsive gambler. I answered yes to all of them and I still thought nothing of them." His first meeting was a confusing experience and he left it in "an absolute daze." Several members followed Jim home that night to ensure that he "didn't do anything stupid." He didn't.

The meetings were to become an integral part of Jim's life and he attended over 90 meetings in the first 90 days of his recovery. For the next two years, he avoided gambling. "When people go back gambling it's the people who fail the programme and not the other way round." The return to the bookies came in the wake of a car crash, which left Jim on his back for several months. This led to what he describes as "an eighteen month blur." His relatively sunny disposition faded a little for the first time during our chat as he began to discuss the worst period of his life.

"The gambling took over completely," he said. "I used to bring a change of clothes with me in the car so I wouldn't be caught out at home. I bought bottles of febreze and kept them in the car too. I was totally focused on how to get money." Making money was never an objective for Jim; it was merely what he required to feed his habit.

"I never bought anything for myself out of winnings. I



"The gambling took over completely," he said. "I used to bring a change of clothes with me in the car so I wouldn't be caught out at home"

just needed to continue my gambling."

After his failed suicide attempt, Jim admitted himself to hospital but "had no interest in living" as he reached rock bottom. It was recommended that he attend Table Lodge for assessment, something he found difficult to accept. "I stood on the cliffs down there and I felt like jumping off," he said. "I eventually went (to Table Lodge) and the doctor told me to come back the following day. I went home effing and blinding at the world and I had no intention of ever going back there." The next

morning he had calmed down and he returned to Table Lodge. He soon found his life changing for the better. "I found who I am as a person down there," admitted Jim. "I discovered it's alright to be human and it helped me understand more about my illness. It introduced me back to the (GA) meetings. I came away from meetings feeling so good; it's a great life; it's like you're going to a psychoanalyst. People just go to as many meetings as you need."

Still attending Table Lodge once a week, Jim feels the sessions have given

him back the life that gambling had taken from him. "I've found home, it's a fellowship. People put their hands out to you and you've got friends around, there's a wonderful closeness and it's understood by everyone." Gambling, in his view, "is a cancer" and GA "is my chemo and it keeps it at bay. I'll always be a compulsive gambler."

Jim was supported by his family throughout the worst of times and he has since returned to third level education. And now he feels he owes it to other gamblers to give his bit back to those who helped him through his illness. "Someone was there for me and now I have to be there for someone else. I hate what (gambling) does to me. Hopefully in 20 years time I'll still be in the rooms."

To those who have a problem but have yet to tell anyone, Jim has a simple message. "Get in contact with people. If you get on to most churches or doctors they will know how to get in touch with people, be it addiction centres or GA." Jim came close to giving up on life, but has seen the light thanks to his family, GA and the various support services designed to help those who need it.



Jim's gambling became a serious problem when he started university. "It began one day when I joined in a game of poker,"

tures. Then one day I put a bet on a soccer match and I won a hundred pounds and I kept on betting like this for a while. I was beginning to win a lot of money and then I began to bet on horses and dogs and the gambling began to take off in a big way at this stage."

Winnings of hundreds soon became thousands and the thrill of the win became the sole focus of Jim's life. And it didn't end there.

"The viking scratch cards

To his great relief, his bet had been first past the post. Within moments, the result had been reversed after stewards' inquiry, making Jim physically sick.

His mother called the family doctor, a pivotal moment in a life which is now heading in the right direction.

"Lecturers in college thought I was a drug addict because I was so pale," he said. "The doctor arrived and started talking to me. I told her about all the 'unlucky'

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Under Potter's spell

by Darragh Clifford

IF BY now you do not know who Harry Potter is, you have probably spent the last six weeks hiding in a cave in Afghanistan. For the rest of us, the name Harry Potter brings to mind some of the most prominent merchandising around at the moment. The 12 year old boy with the John Lennon-style glasses and a flying broom (a nimbus 2000 to be exact) has already conquered the world's hearts with four children's novels. On November 16, Harry Potter could enter cinematic history as being one of the most successful movies of all time.

Harry Potter was born in a small Edinburgh café five years ago to the then unknown author JK Rowling. Stories of how Rowling would sit over one cup of coffee for hours on end because she couldn't afford a second cup are now legend. Over 100 million copies in 46 languages later, Rowling is the second richest woman in the United Kingdom behind Madonna.

To date, she has written four Harry Potter novels; The Philosopher's Stone, The Chamber of Secrets, The Prisoner of Azkaban and The Goblet of Fire. The Roald Dahl style of writing Rowling uses to tell the tale of young wizard Harry Potter

and his sidekicks Ron and Hermione has captivated young and old readers alike. (Prince Charles is a known fan).

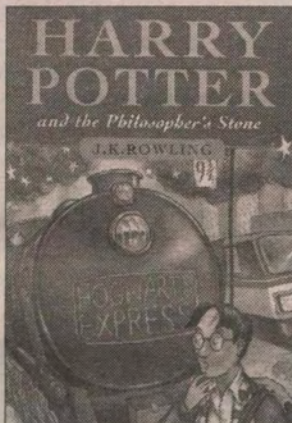
Quite simply, the Harry Potter stories mirror the fantasy world of tales like The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe and Alice in Wonderland. The result is a global phenomenon that is about to get much bigger.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone tells the story of Harry, whose parents were murdered by the evil

letter from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Once at Hogwarts, Harry is involved in many adventures including coming face to face with the evil Voldemort and playing the skillful and fast sport of Quidditch. Along the way he encounters many memorable characters such as Nearly Headless Nick (a ghost, played by John Cleese in the film) and the positively scary Professor Snape.

November 16 is the date that Potter fanatics around the world will finally see their

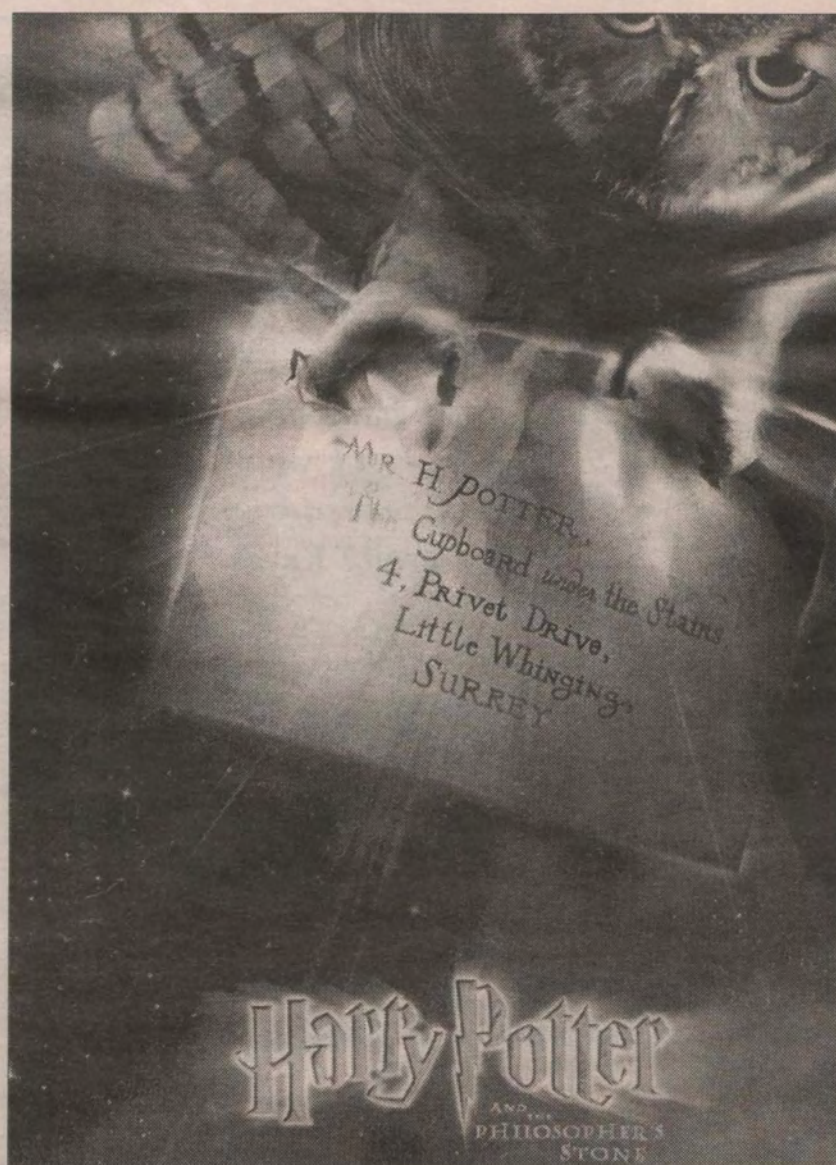
"Legend has it that when Rowling viewed Daniel's screen test, she felt as if she had been reunited with a long lost son"



Voldemort when he was a baby. Forced to live with the awful Dursleys who keep him locked up under the stairs. (The Dursleys are Muggles. This is what wizards call normal adults). Harry has no knowledge that he is a wizard until his 12th birthday, when he receives a

favorite wizard come to life on the big screen. So far, movie critics are united in saying that the movie is 'sheer magic'.

Director Chris Columbus has put together a very impressive cast. While Robbie Coltrane (as Hagrid), Dame Maggie Smith



Harry has no knowledge that he is a wizard until his 12th birthday, when he receives a letter from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

(Professor McGonagall), Alan Rickman (Professor Snape) and Richard Harris (Dumbledore) head the cast, finding the right Harry was the key.

In 1999 it was rumored that Steven Spielberg would take the director's chair and cast Haley Joel Osment as Harry

But when Spielberg dropped out, Chris Columbus of Home Alone and Mrs Doubtfire fame stepped in. Columbus auditioned 60,000 children for the part of Harry, but not one left a mark on the director. But when Columbus stumbled upon a tape of BBC's David Copperfield,

Columbus found his Harry in Daniel Radcliffe.

Legend has it that when Rowling viewed Daniel's screen test, she felt as if she had been reunited with a long lost son. Interestingly, Radcliffe, Rowling and Harry Potter all share the same birthday on July 31.

So far, all indications are that Columbus stayed loyal to the book. John Hiscock of The Daily Telegraph and whose review appeared in the Irish Independent last week wrote that 'He (Columbus) has managed to keep the saccharine to a minimum, and instead allows Rowling's

story to unfold almost exactly as she wrote it'.

Every reviewer that was privileged to view the world premier of Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone in London last week noted that the young Daniel Radcliffe came across exceptionally well.

So, for the millions who will go see the movie and enjoy the book, it is off to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to learn about Quidditch and spells and three headed dogs named Fluffy and be given a chance to forget about the boring Muggle world.

Security mix-up at Stab Ball

By Karen Creed

FRENCH maids, cowgirls, gangsters, drag queens and many more costumed students gathered in Shooters bar on Halloween night for the fancy dress "Stab Party". Organised by the Student's Union, the venue was filled by 1400 students from Cathal Brugha St, Mountjoy Square, Kevin St and Aungier St.

Queues formed outside the bar as early as seven o'clock and the absence of bouncers allowed many students to enter for free.

The president of Aungier St, Karl Bonar, blamed this on a breakdown of communication between Shooters bar and the Students Union. "Shooters bar never informed us that the bouncers would not arrive until ten o'clock. If we had known this we would have been more prepared".

However a staff member of Shooters bar explained that it

was not only their responsibility "to organise the security for such an event. It is a student event and the Students Union should have been more involved and aware". Once the bouncers arrived they tried to get everyone out of the bar and to queue again, this time paying the entrance fee of £3. This caused many complaints from the students already waiting to be let in. By ten o'clock there were 600 people in the queue. Soon after the security refused to let any more people in. There were cries of anger and despair from those outside whom had spent so much time getting ready. Karl Bonar's reaction to this was that "in future students should come to the event as early as possible to avoid being refused". He admitted that similar problems occurred at the Freshers Ball in the Beacon nightclub a few weeks ago.

"Over 200 students couldn't

get tickets for the event". Despite the disruption at the start of the night, the Halloween party received good reviews from the students. According to Aungier Street's Clubs and Societies officer, Connor McDermott, "many students were so drunk they don't even remember the night".

The bar was chaotic with everyone trying to avail of the cheap vodka and red bull. It wasn't long before the thirsty students had cleaned the bar dry of vodka. The lack of cheap alcohol later on in the night didn't seem to bother most students as everyone was in great form.

Almost everyone made an effort to get dressed up. Some student's creativity resulted in fantastic space costumes and 60's outfits. The prize for best costume deservedly went to the boys who dressed up as the Teletubbies. Not only did they look great but they sur-

vived the intense heat from their costumes all night. Second prize went to Lisa Dunne, Aungier St, who's costume and make up made her unrecognisable as Dracula.

Many of the girls were unoriginal in their costumes dressing up as schoolgirls, french maids and bunnies. However their revealing costumes were a hit with the opposite sex.

The male students were more innovative. D'Unbelievables, Tarzan and Bob Marley were some of the best.

Throughout the night the students were able to flaunt their fancy dress outfits in front of an Internet camera which was installed in a side room of the bar. These pictures will be displayed on the college website in the coming weeks.



The organisers were delighted at the number of people who showed up in fancy dress



Nice Kittser shame about The Frames

By Debbie Flood

MUCH was expected from home-grown act The Frames, in their recent sold out gig-fest at Vicar Street last week.

Would their show change or would only the supporting acts be different?

Mundy and upcoming band Turn did the honours, entertaining the impatient audience with their up-tempo beats until Glen and the gang walked on stage.

Their performance at Witness and their current album *For The Birds*, have clearly introduced The Frames' music to a new and wider audience.

They opened the night on a high note with a beautiful, lush rendition of *Lay Me Down*.

This song sees Glen's distinctive voice reach new heights as he is accompanied by Colm Mac Lomairé's moving violin playing.

The Frames trademark violin adds a layered, textured quality to all the songs it is featured on.

Throughout the two-hour gig, lead singer Glen treated the audience to a performance of twitching and jumping on stage which made him appear not unlike a crazed Duracell bunny.

His on stage antics were as entertaining and engaging as ever, and

included Glen sharing a lollipop with the audience, as well as wearing a silly, oversized hat that made his head look like a giant mutant pumpkin.

The Frames belted out *Revelate* effortlessly and performed a blissed out performance of *Disappointed*.

They slip easily between their rock-trad (or should that be trad-rock?) classics such as Fitzcarraldo and *Pavement Tune* and the dreamy ballads of *Giving Me Wings* and *Santa Maria*. The climax of the night was their shimmering, soft rendition of *What Happens When The Heart Just Stops*.

The only crime Glen committed was the slow torturing of *Star, Star*. The sampling of Glen's screeching swamped this little gem of a song and reduced it to a migraine inducing mess. O

nly Colm's violin playing could resurrect the song to the elevated heights it deserved.

For the encore, the members of the Frames swapped instruments and played an impressive, up-tempo version of *Headlong*. For the second encore, Glen brought fellow musician, David Kitt on stage.

Kitt, with his pint of Guinness still surgically attached to his hand since his own gigs at the



Glen Hansard of the Frames pictured at Whelans of Camden Street

Ambassador, seems bemused and slightly embarrassed appearing alongside his friends.

Here was a band he usually supports but after the success of his current album, Kitt >now headlines

his own sold out shows, in bigger venues than Vicar St.

Glen ended the night with his own refreshing version of Kitt's *Another Love Song*, before they both sang a duet on *Song From*

Hope Street.

Hearing Kitt's rich and soothing voice makes you wonder how long will it be before

The Frames are looking to support Kitt on his tours.

Mogwai field a younger team

By Laurence Mackin

EARLIER this year Mogwai played what was the gig of the year and one of the most phenomenal shows I've ever seen in the Red Box.

The band themselves were heard to claim it was their best gig ever, and on the evidence of the two hour set, I would definitely agree. So when I heard that they were going to play a second gig in the Olympia, I was more than happy to hand out a few shekels for the privilege.

However the gig in the Olympia was a different animal altogether and was a tale of the unexpected. The band that took the stage on Wednesday 9th was not the polished eight piece with string section that, together with Dave Friedmann, carved out the little daisy that is *Rock Action*.

This was old school post rock. Although the band opened with the first track off *Rock Action*, it was followed by five songs from the 1997 album *Young Team*. This may not seem like any big cheese to the average music fan, but the majority of Mogwai songs are over six

minutes long.

On the night there were only three songs off *Rock Action*, which is a major surprise, given the fact that it is their latest and by far the most accessible of the bands albums.

The band went all out on the guitar front and went through a set list that wouldn't be much different from four years ago. Only one song from *Come on Die Young*, and three from *Rock Action*, made this a nostalgic Mogwai trip down the musical memory lane.

There were no strings on stage and the band was all about guitars.

The sound was initially poor, and the high end frequencies in the drum samples at the beginning of the set were almost painful, but this improved as the night progressed, becoming more intense and exciting with each song.

One of Mogwai's trademarks is they way they slip from near silence to an all out wall of noise on a heartbeat, and this night was no exception.

Highlights on the night

were the omnipotent *Helicon 1*, the almost-pop *Two Wrongs make a Right*, and the mammoth 20 minute encore, *My Father, My King*, which is now available on vinyl.

Mogwai once again surpassed themselves in the volume stakes, putting out the loudest gig I have ever heard, but at times it was uncontrolled and raw.

Whilst this worked spectacularly for the aforementioned tracks, the rhythm section was drowned out by the lead guitar, which at points was out of time and out of tune.

The energy displayed on stage was nothing short of olympic and guitarist Stuart Braithwaite broke all six strings on his guitar during one song.

This was not Mogwai at their finest, but it was one of the rawest and most intense live performances you are likely to see. Even when they are not at their best they still leave most bands far behind on the live stage. If only I could get the damn ringing to stop in my ears.



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They'll be back

There has always been concern by movie pundits on the release of a sequel to a particularly good film. Many people will still never get over the pain of having to sit through *Cruel Intentions 2*, or even *Urban Legends 2*.

Of course there are exceptions and this month we saw the release of some of them.



American Pie 2,

the much-awaited sequel to the much-loved comedy of a young man's quest for sex (even with baked goods). It was rumoured that the cast were so afraid of falling into the trap set by previously badly made movies that they didn't want to make it but Universal know a gold mine when they see it and contracts were signed or



resigned.

The movie picks up where the last one left, with the main character Jim (Jason Biggs) searching for sex and trying to rid himself of the bad name gained in the last movie.

Of course there is a laundry list of embarrassing situations for young Jim to get into which, believe it or not, are hilarious.

The gang of five, Kevin, Oz, Finch, Jim and of course the always entertaining Stiffler, return home after a year in college and find out that home is too boring.

They decide to do what any self respecting college student does and move to the beach, painting houses for a crust. The beach is filled with gorgeous women and with the imminent return of Nadia (Shannon Elizabeth) things quickly heat up.

The emotional undertones are set with Kevin struggling to "just be friends" with his ex-girlfriend Vicky, who has returned with a new jock boyfriend.

The film is greatly clichéd and at times drips sentimentality but is also great fun. The return of Michelle (Alyson Hennigan), the flute toting band dork, is great and takes Jim to more three stooges like encounters. As sequels go this a good one and well worth the £3.25 you will pay as a student in UGC.



Scary Movie 2

Well, where *American Pie 2* was a success, *Scary Movie 2* flopped. Here we have a movie that has regurgitated all the gags of the original movie in the hope of

making money. The draw of one of the Waynes brothers, Shorty, is supposed to take our minds off it but the movie is so bad that it is impossible.

What really annoys is that they attempt to parody one really good movie, *The Exorcist*. While it is fine to do a skit of a movie like *Scream* a la the first *Scary Movie* you need to be very sharp to take off a classic like *The Exorcist* and sharp they were not.

In the second movie they took the mick out of the Nike ad instead of the Budweiser ad. And for the latter half of the film they went after *The Haunting*.

Unfortunately I have seen that too and honestly I thought it was funnier than *Scary Movie 2*.

In the battle of the comedy sequels *American Pie 2* leaves *Scary Movie 2* in the Hollywood dumpster right next to Robert Downey Junior. T2

While *American Pie 2* was a good sequel, *Terminator 2* is a great sequel and for Arnie fans he just came back. James Cameron has re-released this classic on DVD,

digitally re-mastered and with loads of unseen footage.

I smiled when I first heard this as I feared it would just be the same movie with a clearer picture but oh how wrong was I. The new footage includes scenes where Arnie takes the chip out of his head so that he can learn like a human.

There is a new dream sequence where Linda Hamilton gets re-visited by her old boyfriend who helps her mentally to escape from the nut house.

Probably the best piece of extra footage is the scenes where the T2000 starts malfunctioning and changing colour, so that he cannot stay in chameleon like form for long.

Of course extra footage is all well and good, as long as the original footage is good, and *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* is as good as it gets. With amazing special effects designed around the new T2000 terminator, and timeless Arnie lines like "I want your clothes, your boots and the keys to your motorcycle" it is a must for any movie buff and at £22.99 it's a steal.

The Godfather

One argument that has never truly been settled is whether the first *Godfather* movie is better than the second. While I am unable to solve this great old debate I am delighted to see them return to our shelves in yet another digitally re-mastered work of art. The box set, which includes a bonus disk again containing extra footage and deleted scenes, is a must for any household with DVD capabilities. Al and the family are guaranteed to keep you glued to your sets for the whole 11 hours, some mean feat indeed.

The classiest of gangster movies are re-mastered and looking better than ever and at £44.99 for all four disks a great stocking filler for that uncle you owe a favour to.



Star Wars trailer hits the web

The most famous sore throat in cinematic history has made its return to screens big and pixelated as the countdown to *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones* has well and truly begun.

The half-minute long teaser trailer entitled 'Breathing' is silent except for the iron lung of the soon-to-be Darth Vader, which is guaranteed to leave lightsaber lovers everywhere breathless and hitting the replay button on the official *Star Wars* website, where the trailer debuted earlier this month.

The trailer also appeared on the big screen in the United States ahead of the highly acclaimed *Monsters Inc.* which is the latest offering from Toy Story creators Pixar. *Star Wars* director George Lucas, who was in London recently to put together some of the final touches to the latest episode of the six-movie series, confirmed that a second trailer (two minutes long) would be attached to what looks like being the biggest film of the year.

"In about two weeks when 'Harry Potter' comes out there'll be a bigger trailer," he told reporters at the premiere of Samuel L. Jackson's latest offering *The 51st State*. "Not

There's no escaping the growing Star Wars fever in the DIT Independent editor's office (he'd love to have one!) as the Episode II teaser trailer hits the web. Dermot Keyes gives the lowdown on 30 seconds of manna from George Lucas

the real one - that'll come out in April," he added.

So what does trailer number two for 'AOTC' hold in store? "It's a bigger teaser trailer," said Lucas. "It's full in that it's two minutes rather than 30 seconds. The other one's got music and sound effects just like in a normal trailer, and dialogue - the whole thing."

If the first trailer is anything to go by, Lucas and co. have taken a big step back to the type of dark brooding mood of 'The Empire Strikes Back', the most critically acclaimed Episode to date. For such a short trailer, there is so much to see and get excited about including:

* A computer generated Yoda looking scornful and together with Mace Windu



The trailer also appeared on the big screen in the United States

(Samuel L. Jackson) once more

* The Jedi sidekicks of Obi Wan (Ewan McGregor) and Anakin (Hayden Christensen) with lightsabers at the ready

* The back pack thrusters of Jango Fett (Temuera Morrison) called into action (presumably fleeing from the blade swinging Obi Wan)

* Kenobi again, this time hanging for dear life from a speeder darting through the steel clad climes of Coruscant

* Anakin glancing into the eyes of Amidala (Natalie Portman) and in a later shot planting a kiss on her lips (at their wedding, perhaps?)

* A first glance of the clone troopers marching aboard a Republic Destroyer, eerily reminiscent of the Imperial Destroyers of Episodes IV, V and VI and

* A glimpse of the lightsaber battle between Anakin and the evil Count Dooku (Christopher Lee)

All this and so much more packed into a half-minute of incredible excitement has left yours truly beside himself and counting the days to what appears to be an earlier than expected summer release on this side of the Atlantic. According to some online

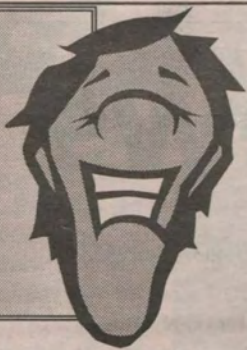
Bothans (sorry that's boffins) it looks increasingly likely that 'AOTC' will be released worldwide on the same day in May of next year. It has already been confirmed that Episode II will open simultaneously in the US and Britain, which presumably includes Ireland. The last *Star Wars* movie was released in staggered dates across the world which confused fans as to when the film would debut in their respective countries. This move would save some Irish fans a small fortune in travelling to the US to see the movie as opposed to waiting the extra eight weeks, as was the case with Episode I.

So the countdown to the latest episode in sci-fi's greatest story is just seven months away. In the meantime, the new trailers should keep those seduced by the film force more than excited at what *Attack of the Clones* holds in store.



The trailer is silent except for the iron lung of the soon-to-be Darth Vader

I'm
d'IT...



By Fiachra Rocco-Goveny

Dublin is not as cosmopolitan as it would like to believe. Despite the pretensions it has to being a city of culture, I do sometimes wonder if we're civilised at all.

One of the biggest offenders in this category has got to be the service (or unservice) industry. Pretending to be French and acting with an air of arrogance does not give you sophistication or class, and most of the waiters in Dublin would do well to heed my advice. Some of us are born with it, and some of aren't.

The other night I was going to meet my VBF Nadia in what considers itself one of the more high-class eateries in Dublin.

So I get there and firstly, the table is all wrong. It is in the corner, in what could only be described as a dungeon-like corner. I mean, the lighting was all wrong and I couldn't see a thing. And if you can't see ten you can't be seen, so honestly what is the point.

Anyhow, the manager was positively aggressive and told us that the place was completely booked out and we couldn't change tables.

Far be it from me to look down on those who did not have the gift of education that I did at private college, but he didn't even know who I was. I mean don't these people read the papers?

So anyway, after some very upsetting discussions, another customer who obviously recognised me, offered to swap tables, in a much more central position. I acceded to this compromise, only to be told that it was non-smoking.

Well, I had had enough at this stage and taking actions into my own hands, I lit up a Marley Light, God knows I needed it.

And if they do not have the good grace to supply me with an ashtray then they can just Hoover the ash up off the carpet later.

After an eternity we were finally seated. The waitress, for want of a better word, offered me a drink and I ordered a Bloody Mary, not too spicy, with Absolut lemon and a slice of lime, natch.

Well, it arrived to the table with no celery. I mean, these things are easy to avail of. I'm sure M&S do them all sliced and everything. So, I sent it back and she looked at me and said "we don't have any celery".

At times like these you really do have to be cruel to be kind, so I dismissed her with a wave of my hand and remarked that "I would have an attitude problem if I was only earning £2 an hour as well".

At this stage I'd had enough and my appetite had been completely eroded by incompetence and the time delay, so I just ordered a salad.

It was instantly forgettable, which is more than I could say for the awfulness of the restaurant. I mean, how difficult can it be to wait tables.

Your just carrying plates, I'm sure you could teach a monkey to do it.

Anyhow, enough work, the stress is playing hell with my skin. Until next week, au revoir.

FRG

City Sounds

By Laurence Mackin

THINGS are not as entertaining as they used to be. Every month I weigh up the odds, look at the weather, consult my tarot cards and try and decide what is worth going to see and do this month. But it's getting harder and harder each month. So instead of going out to a band that like your mate hasn't seen but he saw the cover of the album in his brothers room and it like looks really cool, just stop and have a think about what your doing.

Don't immediately go running off to the bar with your money to burn, don't run up to the over priced poxy night club with the huge window at the front so that they can see you coming. Just look at what's around you and appreciate it. Make yourself a nice meal. Seriously, if you can't cook then learn. It's really easy and it always impresses the girls. Cooking is simply the application of heat to food, what could be simpler than that.

Go and buy a decent cookbook, something by Nigel Slater for example. Instead of getting messy drunk and trying to push a crane into the Liffey, go out for dinner, and have a nice bottle of wine and some really nice food. It will probably cost you less money to go to a really nice restau-

rant and have a bottle or two of wine, then it will to get drunk in a city bar. And always bring a friend. Trust me, you will be entertained.

And if food is not your thing, then call around to a mates house and just chill out. Better still, get all your mates into the one house. Not only will you save money, but you will have a better time. I mean it.

That is not to say that everything is rubbish, because it's not. There are some genuinely entertaining events and shows out there, but they are a dying breed. Take monkeys, for example. Monkeys are without doubt one of the most entertaining creatures it has ever been my pleasure to witness. Monkeys make me laugh, hell, they make everyone laugh. Monkeys in people clothes, are even more hilarious.

And as for monkeys, in peoples clothes playing musical instruments, well that's just the piece de resistance. Now before all you animal activists start sending me hate mail, or thinking about sending me hate mail, but you can't because you haven't the time because you absolutely must meet Sorcha in some superpub, but should you ring a taxi or drive Daddy's Beemer, oh the decisions are endless, before all of that, just

think about it for one small second. Monkeys. In people's clothes. Playing musical instruments. Hilarious.

All of which brings me to a point of sorts, which is the Super Furry Animals and they're weekend of fun. This is a brilliant idea and should be supported and encouraged. The IFC is showing the DVD version of Rings Around the World, which is followed by an acoustic gig by the Fuzzy ones in Whelans, which is followed by a full gig in the Ambassador, which is then followed by a DJ set upstairs in No. 4 Dame Lane. Those of you lucky enough to get the all-encompassing ticket which gives you access to all of the events are in for a real treat, and all for only £30. This kind of event is too rare in Dublin. There are some really excellent and different events on in the city, (the Boxhead Ensemble screening and concert in the this years Doclands festival springs to mind), and its important to support them. £30 for four separate gigs or £22.50 for one night in any of the cities venues? There is no contest really.

And if any promoters are reading this then, please for the love of the entertainment gods, bring back the monkeys. Now that's entertainment.



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Sports clubs news

DIT GAA FOOTBALL CLUB

The team is up and running for the new season and training regularly. The seniors have played one challenge match, losing to Maynooth 4 points. However morale in the team is good and the players are looking forward to competing in the Sigerson Cup after Christmas. For information on the team contact Des O'Donnell at 0872245508.

DIT GAA HURLING CLUB

A mixed month for the hurling club, as their good work in getting to the final of the under-21 Cup was undone by a disappointing performance. After defeating Lucas Sarsfields by 2 points in a close semi-final on Saturday 27th October, they met UCD in the final at O'Toole Park a week later. However the team was unfortunately well beaten by 2-18 to 0-3 by the more experienced Belfield side. Nevertheless the side remain in great spirit and are eagerly anticipating forthcoming matches in the Fitzgibbon Cup and Higher Education College League.

DIT LADIES GAA FOOTBALL

Like the men the ladies are looking forward to the start of the new season and are training every Tuesday night in Belvedere Gym. With a regular turnout of 15-20, hopes are high while all new players are welcome. The team is due to play in the 7 a-side blitz in Galway on the weekend beginning the 10th November and is also scheduled to compete in the Harney Cup. The league season begins on the 8th November and the forthcoming fixtures are:

Thursday 15th November: home V Carlow IT

Thursday 22nd November: away V Inchicore

Thursday 29th November: home V Athlone IT

DIT KARTING CLUB

Preparations for the new season are underway and the club is currently organising future competitions. Two days of karting have taken place with each DIT centre and some promising new drivers have been discovered. Training has gone well and the team is confident of retaining their All-Ireland title. The DIT Championship is due to take place in the next few weeks although no date has been set. Meanwhile the club would like to thank Bob Coggins for his tremendous work on behalf its members.

DIT SOCCER

The Mountjoy Square men's first team played two fixtures in the Colleges Football Association of Ireland league this month. After a bad 5-0 defeat to Sligo IT on Wednesday 31st October they redeemed themselves with an impressive 1-1 draw against the National College of Ireland last Wednesday. The second team meanwhile started their season well, defeating Griffith College 2-1.

There is no good news from the Aungier Street team for October as they were defeated twice. In the first game they were heavily beaten away to Carlow IT by 7 goals to 2. In a tighter game at home to the Garda Training College they eventually lost 3-2. Their final match against Tallaght IT was scheduled for Wednesday 7th November but the result was unknown at the time of going to press. The Aungier Street Indoor Soccer Tournament is also due to begin on Monday 19th November. All matches will take place at YMCA Aungier Street.

Meanwhile trials for the Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CFAI) Representatives team are scheduled for December 12th at VEC Terenure. The side's manager is DIT Bolton Street's sports officer Mickey Whelan and DIT students are encouraged to try out for the a prestigious place on the team. The CFAI side plays annual fixtures against AIB, the Army and the Universities team.



The DIT club is affiliated to the Waduryu Karate-Do Academy of Ireland,

For the first time in four years there is now a ladies' DIT team. Their debut game is against St. Pat's on the 22nd November while training takes place every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Belvedere astro-turf pitch. All new players are welcome.

DIT HOCKEY

A great month for the Aungier Street Hockey team as they qualified for the second round of the Irish Colleges Hockey Association Mixed Hockey League. They defeated Inchicore 2-0 and followed this up with a 0-0 draw against Carlow. The month was completed with a resounding 9-0 win over Maynooth in which Lynne Bennett starred. Special mention also must go to new goalkeeper Jordan Megan who has yet to concede a goal in competitive games. The club, which now has 32 members, also played a challenge match against Kevin Street which ended in a 3-3 draw.

Mountjoy Square meanwhile have been enjoying an equally good time. In the same competition, they were drawn against Cathal Brugha Street. The match, which took place at the Iveagh Grounds in Crumlin, ended in a comfortable 3-0 win for side. This was followed up by a comprehensive victory over Athlone IT and the Mountjoy team are now scheduled to play Sligo IT and Tallaght IT in the second round. These matches will take place on Thursday 15th November at the same venue. Cathal Brugha Street were unfortunately knocked out of the competition as they could only manage a draw against Athlone.

Meanwhile on the 5th December the Irish Colleges Hockey Association men's and ladies' representative teams are due to play the Universities' sides at the Iveagh Grounds. The team should contain a good number of DIT students.

DIT RUGBY

The Rugby Club kick off their season on Wednesday 14th November in the Irish Colleges Rugby Union league with a home game against Portobello. Plenty of action to be seen this season with the senior, fresher and inter-DIT teams all taking to the field of play. For further details contact Niamh O'Callaghan

For a weekly round up of sports results or an update on the weeks sporting activities visit the sports web site at <http://www.dit.ie/admin/sport>. Also keep an eye out for the new DIT Sports Brochure which will be distributed to all DIT colleges in the next few weeks.

Thanks to Herbie McClelland, Caragh O'Buachalla and Niamh O'Callaghan for their help with this month's section

(Sports Officer) on 087- 2985849.

DIT BADMINTON

The team played their first league fixture in the Dublin Badminton Leagues against Dundrum badminton club in early November and will also compete in the colleges' badminton leagues this year. The club is always looking for new members so students can feel free to attend any one of the training times listed below:

Monday 12:30 to 2pm in Y.M.C.A., Aungier Street

Tuesday 7 to 9pm in Belvedere College Gymnasium

Wednesday 9 to 10pm in Belvedere College

DIT ATHLETICS

The first outing of the season is the Maynooth Road Relays and is due to take place on Saturday 17th November. Any potential runners for this or any other future events can contact Herbie McClelland at 0872245507.

DIT BASKETBALL

Both the men's and women's A and B Teams are competing in the Irish Colleges and Irish Student Sports Association Leagues and the Dublin Basketball Leagues respectively. If you don't feel up to playing basketball competitively there is a recreational hour allocated every Tuesday evening from 5:45 to 7pm in Kevin Street Sports Hall.

DIT Waduryu Karate

A team of DIT students competed in the All-Ireland Cup at DCU in October. They performed well, finishing in second place. The team was trained by Tyrone Perdue, who himself won the individual tournament.

Waduryu is a traditional Japanese Martial Art. Its roots are in Kendo, Ju-Jitsu and Karate. The DIT club is affiliated to the Waduryu Karate-Do Academy of Ireland, whose President and Chief Instructor Y. Iwasaki Sensei 6th Dan, is the only Japanese instructor resident in Ireland.

No charge is levied on students for normal training undertaken within the college, however to grade students must attend a once a month training course under the Wado Academy of Ireland.

Students wishing to participate may attend their first class in tracksuit bottoms and tee shirt. However it is necessary to purchase a proper karate suit for attendance at any subsequent class.

Classes take place at the sports hall in DIT Bolton Street. Michael O'Callaghan and Colm Geraghty, both members of DIT staff, are involved in the club and can be contacted at Bolton Street in rooms 391 and 201 respectively.

YOGA

Classes will now take place every Wednesday from 1 to 2pm in DIT Cathal Brugha Street Room M104. Keep an eye on the Sports Noticeboards, as a new yoga class will commence soon in DIT Mountjoy Square.

AQUA AEROBICS

Students can go along for sessions on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30pm in DIT Kevin Street Swimming Pool. A novel and enjoyable way to maintain a good level of fitness.

OLYMPIC HANDBALL

One of Ireland's fastest growing sports is Olympic Handball and any student wishing to get involved with can go along on either Monday nights from 7:45 to 9:45pm in Larkin College or Wednesday from 5 to 7pm in Belvedere College.

Whistle Blowers



'Sexy' bowls has arrived

THE BBC has lost much of its lustrous sporting coverage in recent years but has somehow managed to retain several sports that very few could be bothered watching.

Amongst its 'what's on the other channel' inducing ilk is the near legendary indoor bowls, whose spectators would have traditionally filled the masses of a 'Live at Three' audience in the halcyon days of daytime TV at Montrose.

But the recent BUPA International Open has emonstrated moves made by its governing body to attract a new host of fan to the only sport slower than snail sprinting.

In an attempt to entice new followers, preferably still in the throes of active life as opposed to the plethora of Victor Meldrew types who inhabit its dozy arenas, bowling has gone 'sexy.' Gone is the traditional green carpet, as revered as the black tarmac that lines Monza or the lush green blades that populate Croke Park. In comes a deep blue carpet, almost electric in its hue and guaranteed to keep some more of its war-veteran riddled audience awake a little longer. Gone is the white jack, the target that players have tracked down with their big balls (bowls that is) since time began. In comes a canary yellow number, more resonant of bingo in the parish hall than the game that so many have loved and so many more have not.

Gone is the traditional, predominantly black bowls ball that has provided so many premature deaths in the terraces. In its place, big bright red and green balls, just the ticket for the colour blind bowls enthusiast. But most significantly of all, the players have been Jean Paul Gaudiered and now take to the arena adorned in colours only previously discovered during drug laced hazes or one day cricket matches. For example, the crowd at Blackpool's Norbeck Castle, where the Open was staged, have been treated to a veritable pyjama party. England's Dave Gourlay wore hot red shirt with white arms and red shell suit pants in his tie against Canada's Christie Grahame, who took to the action in a blue and white number with gold trimming. Knitting patterns around the world may be in for a rude changing of the guard as the woolie cap has been consigned to the dustbin of indoor bowls past.

William Shakespeare coined the phrase "the rub of the green" after viewing a game of bowls, a sport changed, changed utterly as WB Yeats once wrote.

What would the Bard make of this change, which is being treated as a sacrilegious act amongst the game's traditionalists. The green will no longer be green, players will play in one direction only and sets are now played in a best of two scenario, designed to increase drama following the introduction of the tennis-inspired tie-break. If only the GAA would be so bold and change its roots to allow footballers to pick the ball from the ground since the toe lift is all but redundant. If only the same engine maker powered all Formula One cars so we would really know who's the greatest and if only Man United could keep a clean sheet, what a wonderful life it would be. Rock on bowls, there's life in the old dog yet!

Dermot Keyes

DIT caving club - it's alive!

By Bernadette Commins

OH yeah baby! I is speakin' the truth! The DIT Caving Club has been revived. Its' limp, frail shell has been filled with lively young bodies who break out in a cold sweat at the mention of getting deep down and dirty!!!! Mmm deep down! Mmm dirty!

On the 19th of October last, the club embarked on its first weekend trip of the year to Doolin, Co. Clare, to do some quality caving, have some fun and sample the local pub culture at the same time (all of which were done to perfection!). We were fortunate to have been invited to travel down on the bus with University College Dublin Caving and Potholing Club (UCDCPC), and stay in the house with them also, which was mighty craic! Thanks UCDCPC! We love you!

We left UCD that Friday evening to begin the torturous six-hour bus journey to our destination. If you can survive that, you are guaranteed that trudging through a cave for three hours will be a piece of cake!

We made our usual 'tasty and tempting' food stop in Ballinasloe on the way, the visit to the off-license was to ensure that the rest of the journey would be less painful and we eventually reached Doolin near midnight.

There was a respectable rush to grab a bed for the night, the unlucky ones were pushed onto the floor, pointed at and laughed at respectfully!

Saturday arrived abruptly, when we were all told to get our "asses out of bed" at 8am. But it didn't matter, because two hours later we were on the way to the underground, to the world beneath our feet.

Thankfully, Mr. Rain decided to stay away, so there was nothing left to worry about except getting to the cave, getting in and then getting back out safely. Getting to our cave, Poll Dubh, was a challenge to say the least. It was fun wrestling with the ground in an attempt to keep our wellies on our feet and trying to defy gravity and stay vertical was lots of fun too!!!

Once we got into the cave, we were fine. It was a remarkable cave, which required a bit of crawling, climbing, and crouching, but it was visually striking, with lots of formations adorning the ceiling, sides and floor of the cave. The other group went into Poll na Grai, and from the feedback we got from the novices, they really enjoyed it.

The appeared to have been quite impressed with the whole 'cave thing'.

They enjoyed having the opportunity to see the beautiful formations that exist down there, like the stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, and curtains. They also liked the feel of the cold, wet mud on their bodies (so they said anyway!).

After returning to the house for lunch, we had the opportunity to go caving again, and all DIT cavers



The DIT Caving Club has been revived. Its' limp, frail shell has been filled with lively young bodies who break out in a cold sweat at the mention of getting deep down and dirty!

were more than willing to do it. This was a good sign, they'd been bitten and had caught the bug (followed by exaggerated eeeevil laugh). The caves on the list this time around were Cullaun 2 and Pollnagollum. I have never heard so much grunting, moaning, whining and panting as I heard in Cullaun 2 that evening. We decided to take a route not often taken

by cavers, and halfway through we knew why that was. It was very physical, due to the extremely narrow, low and long passages, one of those aptly called 'Year Passage'.

This didn't dispirit us though, it only made the trip more challenging and exciting. The Pollnagollum group again thoroughly enjoyed themselves, but to be honest,

I was so tired after returning from Cullaun 2, I forgot to ask them what they thought.

The remainder of the night was spent washing ourselves, eating and of course, drinking!! Mmm beer!!! We definitely achieved our aims. We made it to Clare, we spent a whole day underground, we had lots of fun on Saturday night and we made it back safely on Sunday!! The

weekend was a success and hopefully the first of many. There are a lot of people who helped a lot to get the first trip off the ground and you all know who you are, so thanks! If you would like to go away on a weekend like this, then why not send us a mail to dit_caving_club@yahoo.co.uk to find out information on our November trip.

Spectators - who needs em

By Brian Healy

A true sports fan will always tell you that to really appreciate a sporting event you have to be there in the flesh, to see the sights, to hear the sounds and to smell the smells.

We have all heard the stories of the length people went to go to the World Cup to see Ireland play, some going so far as re-mortgaging their houses. No doubt the same type of loyalty is evident in most sports.

But what is so good about being a spectator? Look at what a spectator has to endure.

He or she has to fork out for the tickets, travel miles only to get a parking spot that's in a different time-zone to the actual event, put up with all types of weather; and just when it can't get any worse an abnormally tall man gets in the way anytime something exciting happens.

Meanwhile I'm sitting at home, with my can of beer and my 12-inch Hawaiian pizza, watching it all on telly. While the true fans crane their necks like giraffes to get a glimpse of the action, I'm changing the camera angles with my remote.

I'm watching the replay of Henry's goal, of Woods try or of Tiger's putt. I'm watching post-

match reaction from the managers and players and I'm listening to the analysis of the studio guests. Television has changed sport.

Before the only way you could ever see a major sporting event was to actually go to it. But now television offers the sports fan a lot more and sport itself realises this.

How many large screens are there in football stadiums around the world that relay goals and chances to the spectators? And what about Formula 1? People pay exorbitant amounts of money for a ticket and then spend most of the time keeping tabs on events on a giant screen.

And what thanks do spectators get? Going to a snooker or a tennis match is like taking part in an endurance test.

You have to sit down for hours and risk scorn from the referees and players if you so much as bat an eyelid. In golf you trundle up and down fairways, following your favourite golfer, dodging stray shots only to have a caddy shove a sign in your face telling you in a nice way to shut the hell up.

But some sports people do acknowledge the spectators. Oh look it's Eric Cantona, and he's just watched the latest Jackie Chan movie.

Calling all sportsfans!

It is fair to say that the sports department in DIT towers is in need of a little redressing. DIT is a college rich with sporting talent and after a collective knocking of heads (it hurt!) we've decided to relaunch the sports section starting from next month and we aim to make it as comprehensive and representative as possible. Be it hurling, soccer, badminton, we aim to get it covered as well as we can.

Getting around to matches and the like has so far proven impossible but we hope that this is all about to change. And it is in that respect that we hope we can look outside our ivory towers in Aungier Street and get our feet dirty! That's where you the sports lover come into play, if you so wish.

If you want to contribute to the sports pages of the DIT Independent, please leave a message at the Aungier Street Newsroom at 4023071 or by email to diteditor@hotmail.com. We want to provide as extensive a service as possible and with the co-operation of DIT's sports clubs, we aim to make

our pages as informative for the remainder of the year.

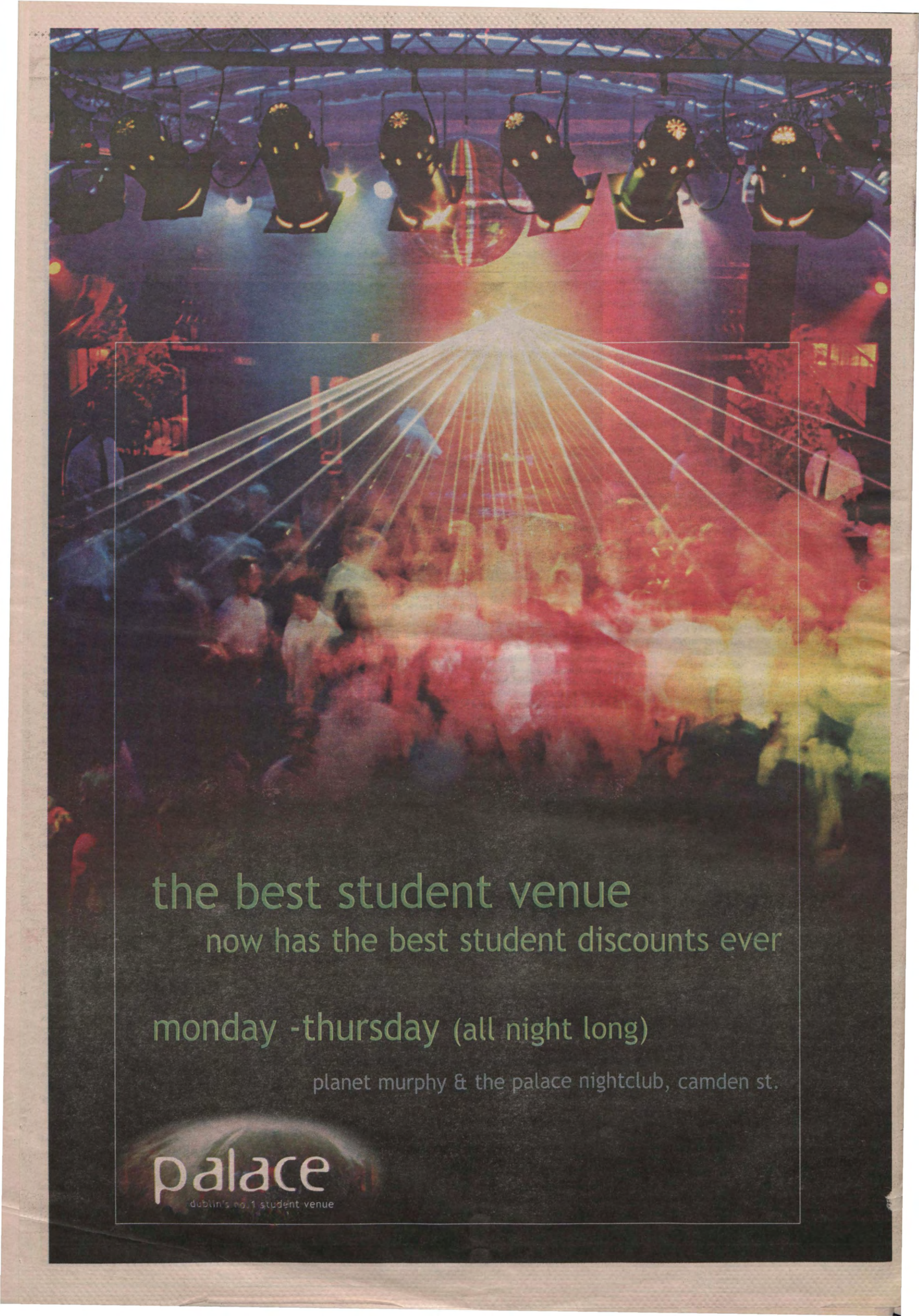
So if you would like to:

- * travel with a team on a day trip
- * compile a match report
- * take photos of the big action
- * offer your own views on DIT sport
- * write about the sport you love,

we would love to hear from you. Our sports department is the smallest within the newspaper and we need as much help as we can get. If we as staff and you as the sports loving DIT public can work together, then we can make a great success of our sports pages. We would also like to establish a results service each month to chart the progress of all our teams and individuals and to achieve this we need your help. So let's get the ball (or sliotar) rolling and make the December issue a bright new start for sports coverage in the DIT Independent.

Yours in sport, Dermot Keyes and Miguel Delaney.

Reports on sports events needed - contact the DIT Independent through your students union



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